



Hertfordshire FA



Under 15 Boys Challenge Cup Final 2024 **Stags v St Albans City Youth**

Sunday 21st April 2024 10:00am
The County Ground, Letchworth Garden City



Welcome to The County Ground



Our twelfth County Cup Final of 2024

Good morning and a warm welcome to The County Ground, home of Hertfordshire FA for today's Under 15 Boys Challenge Cup Final.

Our congratulations go to the players and management of both Stags and St Albans City Youth on reaching the final. We wish you the very best of luck for the match and hope you have a memorable day. We also want to acknowledge the volunteers of both clubs, whose hard work behind the scenes gives these players the opportunity to be part of the game.

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 Bob Spooner who is a Member of the Hertfordshire FA Council as Guest of Honour for today's final, who will meet the teams before the game and also present the medals at the end of the match.

While you are here be sure to make the most of the facilities, including the Pitchside Cafe which is next to the main stand and will be serving hot and cold drinks, food and snacks throughout the day. Should you have a query, our staff will be happy to help you.

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

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

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your child safe in football?

[TheFA.com/PlaySafe](https://www.thefa.com/PlaySafe)



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Competition History



This is the 27th Final of the Hertfordshire FA
Under 15 Boys Challenge Cup

The Hertfordshire FA Under 15 Challenge Cup was first introduced in the 1995-96 season, reflecting the continued growth of the youth game in the county.

While there had been an Under 18 Cup in Hertfordshire since 1931 and an Under 16 Cup since 1946, this marked the first time that competitions were held for individual age groups, rather than the traditional format of cups that covered two.

The inaugural final in 1996 saw Evergreen beat Tesco Youth 1-0, however it is Bishop's Stortford who have had most success in this age group with four victories spread throughout the competition's history, followed by Cheshunt and Ware with three wins each.

As for this years finalists, St Albans City Youth have appeared in the final four times, claiming victory twice, most recently in 2001. Stags are making their first appearance in this final and will be looking to become the nineteenth club to add their name to the trophy.

Today's match will be 40 minutes each way, with kicks from the penalty mark if necessary to decide the winner. Teams are permitted rolling substitutions from a list of 7 named players.

Recent Finals

The COVID pandemic caused the 2019-20 season to be cut short, with that season's competition being declared void. The Under 15 Boys Challenge Cup was not run in the subsequent season before returning in 2021-22.

| | | | |
|----------------|---------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|
| 2012/13 | Buntingford Cougars | 3 - 0 | St Albans City Youth |
| 2013/14 | Cockfosters Youth | 8 - 0 | Harvesters |
| 2014/15 | Cheshunt Youth | 0 - 0 (4 - 3) P | Broxbourne Borough Youth |
| 2015/16 | Bishop's Stortford | 3 - 3 (4 - 3) AET | Potters Bar Town Youth |
| 2016/17 | Ware Academy | 1 - 0 | Hemel Hempstead Town Youth |
| 2017/18 | Ware Academy | 5 - 0 | Maccabi London Lions |
| 2018/19 | Berkhamsted Youth | 3 - 1 | Ware Youth |
| 2021/22 | Cheshunt Youth | 3 - 1 | Baldock Town |
| 2022/23 | Baldock Town | 3 - 1 | Colney Heath Youth |

Club Profile

Stags

Club with a focus on the development of young people in the local community

Stags FC was formed in 2012 by Jim Sanghera with the aim of having an open door policy, accepting children irrespective of their footballing ability. The core aim centred on leveraging football to build the model adult citizens with the community at it's core.

Rather than being all about results, the club has set the focus on nurturing the child. We are a small club, but take an active interest in the issues that concern young people. We are currently running a 'cut out knife crime' campaign and have also put on study groups for our 16s who are taking their GCSEs this summer.

Hence the achievement of our Under 15 team appearing in a County Cup final is beyond our wildest imagination and is testimony to the efforts of our coaches, Darren Woodhouse and Karim Eljanfali. What's also been fantastic is that over half of the players in this team have been with this team since they were 6-7 years old.

We'd like to take this opportunity to thank the coaches, volunteers, parents and players for their continued support. We truly believe that 'nurtured roots grow strong people'. We hope both teams enjoy the match and carry good memories of this final for years to come.



League Season

West Herts Youth League, Under 15 Division 1

As at 16/04/2024

| | | P | W | D | L | F | A | GD | PTS |
|---|--------------------------|----|---|---|---|----|----|-----|-----|
| 1 | Dunstable Town Youth | 12 | 8 | 1 | 3 | 31 | 21 | 10 | 25 |
| 2 | Bushey and Oxhey | 11 | 7 | 1 | 3 | 32 | 18 | 14 | 22 |
| 3 | Harpenden Colts | 14 | 5 | 4 | 5 | 34 | 31 | 3 | 19 |
| 4 | Kings Langley Youth | 12 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 24 | 26 | -2 | 16 |
| 5 | Chorleywood Common Youth | 13 | 4 | 3 | 6 | 23 | 30 | -7 | 15 |
| 6 | Stags FC | 9 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 38 | 28 | 10 | 14 |
| 7 | Bushey and Oxhey | 12 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 24 | 28 | -4 | 13 |
| 8 | Evergreen Youth | 7 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 12 | 9 | 3 | 12 |
| 9 | Watford Youth Sports | 10 | 0 | 2 | 8 | 20 | 47 | -27 | 2 |

Your analysis of the season so far...

Our U15s team is sitting in a favourable position in the league. The table is slightly misleading as there is a wide variance of matches played amongst the teams in the division. Due to weather and progression in cup competitions, Stags have played amongst the least amount of league matches so far.

As a result there will be a fair share of double-headers as the league season draws to a conclusion. Having said that the players are looking forward to playing out the rest of the season as it progresses into May.

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PART OF ENGLAND FOOTBALL

RAISING THE GAME

It's the standards you set
that make the difference



Stags

Currently 6th in the West Herts Youth League, Under 15 Division 1
As at 16/04/2024

League Form

| | |
|----------------|----|
| Games Won | 4 |
| Games Drawn | 2 |
| Games Lost | 3 |
| Goals Scored | 38 |
| Goals Conceded | 28 |

Leading Scorers

| | |
|----|-------------------------------|
| 32 | Alfie Grace |
| 11 | Rayan Eljanfali |
| 7 | Archie Holt |
| 7 | Max Woodhouse |
| 5 | Louie Sgambati, Luca Sgambati |

Route to the Final

| | | | |
|----|--------------------|-------|--------------------------|
| R1 | Stags | AW | Belstone Youth |
| R2 | Bushey and Oxhey | 5 - 6 | Stags |
| R3 | Stags | 3 - 1 | Broxbourne Borough Youth |
| QF | Stags | 6 - 2 | Evergreen Youth |
| SF | Baldock Town Youth | 0 - 1 | Stags |



St Albans City Youth

Currently 3rd in the Watford Friendly League, U15 Red Division
As at 16/04/2024

League Form

| | |
|----------------|----|
| Games Won | 7 |
| Games Drawn | 1 |
| Games Lost | 3 |
| Goals Scored | 37 |
| Goals Conceded | 20 |

Leading Scorers

| | |
|----|---------------------|
| 17 | Archie Blake |
| 14 | Harry Harris |
| 14 | Harley Precey Hayes |
| 5 | Jack Dracos |
| 5 | Rowan How |

Route to the Final

| | | | |
|----|----------------------|-------|----------------------|
| R1 | St Albans City Youth | 5 - 2 | Maccabi London |
| R2 | Buntingford Cougars | 0 - 9 | St Albans City Youth |
| R3 | Bushey and Oxhey | 2 - 4 | St Albans City Youth |
| QF | St Albans City Youth | 3 - 0 | Kings Langley Youth |
| SF | St Albans City Youth | 4 - 1 | Colney Heath Youth |

Club Profile

St Albans City Youth

Growing over 50 years to become one of the largest grassroots clubs in the country



The club was originally founded in 1971 to provide organised football for a group of local school boys. 53 years later it is now one of the biggest grassroots clubs in the country with over 1,400 players across more than 100 teams. 'City Youth' became a registered charity in 2001 and in the same year was awarded Charter Standard Club status, and today we are proud to be recognised as a 3 Star England Football Accredited Club.

Last year the club launched its new vision 'To inspire a love for the game' supported by a new mission statement and values which focus on providing access and opportunity, delivering a programme of football for all and creating a safe fun and positive environment. We have 3 core sections, Girls, Inclusive and Boys, each supporting the other and enabling us to welcome all sections of our Community.

The club is overseen by a board of Trustees and a Management Committee who oversee our day-to-day operations. The club relies on over 300 volunteers without whom it could not function. In addition to our regular football activities City Youth have been delivering community projects across St Albans for over 20 years.



League Season

Watford Friendly League, U15 Red Division

As at 16/04/2024

| | | P | W | D | L | F | A | GD | PTS |
|----|---------------------------|---|---|----|----|----|-----|----|-----|
| 1 | Kings Langley Youth | 8 | 5 | 3 | 42 | 21 | 21 | 29 | 29 |
| 2 | New Salamis Youth | 8 | 3 | 2 | 23 | 19 | 4 | 27 | 24 |
| 3 | Whetstone Wanderers Youth | 7 | 2 | 4 | 26 | 26 | 0 | 23 | 22 |
| 4 | Colney Heath Youth | 7 | 2 | 5 | 27 | 28 | -1 | 23 | 20 |
| 5 | St Albans City Youth | 7 | 1 | 3 | 37 | 20 | 17 | 22 | 20 |
| 6 | Enfield Town Youth | 5 | 3 | 8 | 22 | 24 | -2 | 18 | 17 |
| 7 | AEK Youth | 5 | 2 | 2 | 15 | 11 | 4 | 17 | 14 |
| 8 | Borehamwood 2000 | 4 | 1 | 10 | 26 | 43 | -17 | 13 | 13 |
| 9 | Omonia Youth | 3 | 1 | 8 | 15 | 23 | -8 | 10 | 10 |
| 10 | Berkhamsted Raiders Youth | 1 | 4 | 10 | 9 | 27 | -18 | 7 | 6 |

Your analysis of the season so far...

After having a great 2022-23 we were really looking forward to this season kicking off to see if we could better our achievements of the previous campaign. With a few of the boys leaving to go elsewhere we brought in some new players to strengthen the squad.

Having made a solid start with five straight wins at the beginning of the campaign we suffered from a drop in form in the winter months following injuries to key players, with it taking some time to adjust for those coming in covering unfamiliar positions.

Fortunately we have a fantastic spirit across the squad and with some hard work have since regained the momentum from the early part of the season. With players now returning to fight for their places we are in great shape to push on for the double with the league title still in our sights and reaching the final of the County Cup.

The boys have really put the effort in since the turn of the year and this has shown in our results, now we are going into the business end of the season its really great to see them enjoying their football and testing themselves against some real top-quality opponents. The boys have a great team spirit and togetherness which is fantastic to watch.

When it comes to concussion, don't take chances

IF IN DOUBT SIT THEM OUT

BE CONCUSSION AWARE



RECOGNISE

understand signs
and symptoms
of concussion



REMOVE

anyone with suspected
concussion must be
removed from play



REST

players must refrain
from exercise and start a
Graduated Return To Play



For additional free resources including
England Football Learning's online
concussion course and guidelines
englandfootball.com/concussion



**ENGLAND
FOOTBALL**

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

KITaid



Years of Transforming Lives

1,000,000

One million items of kit donated since 1998

KitAid takes donations of once loved football kit and distributes it to some of the world's poorest countries, giving young people the opportunity to get involved in sport and helping partner charities to engage with the communities they work in.

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

Won by St Albans City

Wednesday 10th April 7:45pm
Charity Shield

Won by Tring Athletic

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

Won by Sun Sports Youth

Sunday 14th April 3:00pm
Sunday Junior Cup

Won by Northaw Reserves

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



Daniel Serra
Ghiles Ait-Mekideche
Henzel De Melo
Rayan Eljanfali
Zack Eljanfali
Alfie Grace
Archie Holt
Rashaan Ifil
Dave Kimathi
Gabriel Maragh
Dominic Martino
Tommy McCarthy
Kamil Poradzisz
Rafael Severino
Luca Sgambati
Louie Sgambati
Max Woodhouse

Noah Brooks
Mason Wells
Archie Blake
Harry Harris
Joe Thorpe
Rowan Howes
Leo Walter Hooper
Luke Smith
Max Harris
Oscar Nagascallano
Rory Williams
Thomas Archer
Eddie Cullum
Jack Dracos
Harley Hayes

Manager: Darren Woodhouse
Assistant: Karim Eljanfali
Colours: Yellow Shirt, Black Shorts,
Black socks

Manager: Leyton Brooks
Assistants: Chris Harris, Nick Hayes
Colours: Blue Shirt, Blue Shorts,
Blue Socks

Referee:
Oliver Pleasance

Assistants:
Richard Bullimore, Andrew Marsh

Fourth Official:
Phillip Gardiner