



**Hertfordshire FA**



**Senior Challenge Cup Final 2023**  
**Hitchin Town v Berkhamsted**

Wednesday 29th March 2023 7:45pm  
Theobalds Lane, Cheshunt



# Welcome to Theobalds Lane

## Our fourth County Cup Final of 2023



Good evening and a warm welcome to Theobalds Lane for the 130th Final of the Hertfordshire FA Senior Challenge Cup.

Our congratulations go to the players and management of both Hitchin Town and Berkhamsted on reaching the final. We wish you the very best of luck for the match. We also want to acknowledge both club's 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.

We would also like to thank our hosts this evening who have kindly allowed us to use their ground for this match. While you are here be sure to make the most of the facilities, including the licensed bar serving hot and cold drinks, food and snacks.

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.

**Tony Butler,**  
**Chair, Competitions Committee**

“ ***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

Tony Butler

### Secretary

Paddy Donovan

### Committee Members and Representatives

Steve Trulock, Gary Hollingsworth, Peter Waller, Ken Coniam, Graham Phillips, Graham Martin, Richard Dowden

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## Competition History



This is the 130th 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.

Of tonight's sides, Hitchin Town have reached the final twenty times, winning fourteen, while Berkhamsted are making their first appearance in the Senior Cup final, improving on their previous best run in this competition which saw them reach the semi finals in 2015.

*Today's match will be 45 minutes each way, with kicks from the penalty mark if necessary.*

## Recent Finals

The COVID pandemic caused the 2019-20 season to be cut short, with winning semi-finalists Hemel Hempstead and St Albans declared to have shared the competition. The Senior Cup was not run in the 2020-21 season before returning last year.

<b>2011/12</b>	Bishop's Stortford	7 - 2	Oxhey Jets
<b>2012/13</b>	Hemel Hempstead Town	2 - 0	Potters Bar Town
<b>2013/14</b>	Boreham Wood	1-1 (3 - 1P)	Bishops Stortford
<b>2014/15</b>	Hemel Hempstead Town	1 - 0	Boreham Wood
<b>2015/16</b>	Hitchin Town	2 - 1	Boreham Wood
<b>2016/17</b>	Hitchin Town	2 - 1	Bishops Stortford
<b>2017/18</b>	Boreham Wood	2 - 1	Royston Town
<b>2018/19</b>	Boreham Wood	1 - 0	St Albans City
<b>2021/22</b>	Cheshunt	2 - 0	Hadley



# Club Profile

## Hitchin Town



The Canaries look to add further to Hitchin's long and distinguished football history

The first Hitchin Football Club was formed in 1865. That club took part in the first FA Cup in 1871-72, and reached the quarter finals of the competition, losing to eventual finalists Royal Engineers. That first Hitchin club, a struggling professional outfit, folded in 1911, debt-ridden and the victims of a fire at their ground.

It was not until 1928 that the current Hitchin Town FC was formed, and it was at this point that the nickname, "The Canaries", was established. Hitchin Town gained admission to the Spartan League and the 1930s were a golden age for Hitchin Town winning the AFA Senior Cup in 1932 and the Spartan League Premier Division in 1935.

Having joined the Athenian League just before the Second World War, Hitchin Town took some years to recover, before joining the Isthmian League in 1962 where they stayed until 2004, when as a result of a reorganisation they transferred to the Southern League.

They won the Southern League Cup in 2006, and despite relegation in 2009, they won promotion back to the Premier Division in 2012, and in 2016 and 2017 they enjoyed their best-ever seasons in the Southern League, reaching the play-offs on both occasions and winning the Hertfordshire FA Senior Cup in both seasons.



# League Season

## Southern Football League Premier Division Central

As at 27/03/2023

		P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	<b>Tamworth</b>	36	23	7	6	80	35	45	76
2	<b>Coalville Town</b>	34	23	6	5	78	34	44	75
3	<b>Leiston</b>	37	20	13	4	77	43	34	73
4	<b>Rushall Olympic</b>	35	21	6	8	65	39	26	69
5	<b>Nuneaton Borough</b>	35	19	9	7	53	36	17	66
6	<b>Mickleover</b>	35	17	6	12	69	59	10	57
7	<b>Ilkeston Town</b>	36	14	13	9	68	54	14	55
8	<b>Redditch United</b>	36	15	7	14	52	51	1	52
9	<b>Barwell</b>	36	14	9	13	61	56	5	51
10	<b>Royston Town</b>	36	14	9	13	56	65	-9	51
11	<b>Stourbridge</b>	36	12	14	10	58	44	14	50
12	<b>Hitchin Town</b>	37	12	11	14	43	56	-13	47
13	<b>Alvechurch</b>	34	13	7	14	51	53	-2	46
14	<b>Bromsgrove Sporting</b>	37	12	8	17	52	65	-13	44
15	<b>Needham Market</b>	35	12	7	16	41	42	-1	43
16	<b>Basford United</b>	36	11	10	15	42	54	-12	43
17	<b>St Ives Town</b>	37	11	8	18	56	65	-9	41
18	<b>Stratford Town</b>	36	9	12	15	50	66	-16	39
19	<b>Kings Langley</b>	36	10	8	18	40	59	-19	38
20	<b>Bedford Town</b>	36	8	6	22	49	79	-30	30
21	<b>Hednesford Town</b>	37	5	9	23	39	71	-32	24
22	<b>AFC Rushden &amp; Diamonds</b>	35	4	5	26	26	80	-54	17

## Give us your analysis of the season so far...

This season has been one largely of rebuilding. With a mixture of experience and exciting young players, the team's League form has been sound, with a respectable mid-table position having been maintained for the majority of the season.

Injuries to key players have to some degree hampered progress of late, but nevertheless we have found our way through to the Senior Cup Final for the first time in six years and remain confident in restoring our history of success in this competition.

# Meet the Players

## Hitchin Town

Tells us about your squad....

### Charlie Horlock

First signed for us in 2014 making 87 appearances before moving on for a couple of seasons, returning to Top Field in 2019. Has been the established first choice keeper ever since and took over the captaincy this season.

### Bradley Bell

Back at Top Field following a previous spell with the club in 2019. Spent time at Biggleswade Town and Barton Rovers over the last two seasons. Has featured more as a wing back in the current set up.

### Layne Eadie

Left sided player who can play either full back or midfield. In his second spell with the Canaries having re-joined after the demise of Harlow Town earlier this season.

### Toby Syme

Former Norwich City academy defender who is in a second spell at Hitchin Town. Came back to Top Field this season where he has established himself in the centre back partnership.

### Jack Morrell

A defender equally comfortable either in the centre or at left-back. Formerly of Stevenage, Gillingham and East Thurrock, joined us in the summer and has recently returned from a lengthy spell of injury.



### Lewis Barker

Strong, no-nonsense former midfielder who rarely loses an aerial battle. Has reverted to his original centre back position this season. Having made more than 200 appearances in five years at Baldock, signed for Hitchin in 2019.



### Finley Wilkinson

The 19-year-old hard working midfielder joined Hitchin Town in the summer of 2022 following a successful spell at Histon after coming through their U18 side.

### Ciaren Jones

Highly-rated Bedford-born 20 year old centre-back who played for Luton Town Under 18s before a move to Norwich City's Under 23 side. Played for Gloucester City last season.

### Jack Snelus

A relatively new addition, Jack is a busy, hard-working midfielder, who signed for the Canaries towards the end of last year from AFC Rushden & Diamonds.

### Daniel Idiakhwa

18 year old midfielder currently on a loan spell from Luton Town, for whom he signed in the close season. Last season Daniel was part of the squad that helped Newport Pagnell Town win the FA Vase at Wembley.

### Josh Mollison

Back-up keeper and Academy coach who impressed in Hitchin's FA Youth Cup run of 2017-18, before loan spells at Biggleswade United, Barton Rovers, Potton United Eynesbury Rovers and Leverstock Green.

### Kavan Cotter

Recent signing from Wingate and Finchley. Spent a large part of the 2017-18 season on loan to us from Luton's Academy, when he made 35 appearances. Has also has played for Hemel Hempstead Town.

### Stephen Gleeson

Experienced former Republic of Ireland international midfielder capped four times by his country who has featured for the likes of MK Dons, Birmingham City and Ipswich Town. Joined the Canaries in 2021.

### Josh Coldicott-Stevens

Cultured central midfielder. Josh began his career at Boreham Wood, before spending two seasons at Kings Langley. Signed for us midway through the 2019-20 season and has been a regular ever since.

### Kye Tearle

Versatile teenage product of the Pro:Direct Academy in Baldock. Broke into the first team a couple of seasons back, initially featuring as a right-back before moving into a midfield role.

### Diogo Freitas-Gouveia

Former Colchester United professional who spent time on loan with us in 2020, impressing the fans with exceptional goals and creativity. Signed again at start of this season after a long term injury.

### George Devine

Striker who joined us during pre-season. Spent a successful period at Colney Heath over the COVID affected seasons, scoring plenty of goals as they were promoted to the Southern League.

### Steve Cawley

Experienced striker who's spent many years in the National League. Joined the Canaries from Hemel Hempstead after a previous loan spell. Effective with his hold-up play and strength.

### Ashley Hay

Hard working striker who joined in October after a short spell with Biggleswade Town. Hay enjoyed a prolific season in front of goal at Baldock Town in 2021-22 and has already impressed in his short time here.

### Josh Allen

Bright young striker and another who is on loan to the Canaries from from Luton Town. The 19 year old recently returned from a loan spell at Cray Wanderers.





## Hitchin Town

Currently 12th in the Southern Football League Premier Division Central  
As at 27/03/2023

### League Form

Games Won	12
Games Drawn	11
Games Lost	14
Goals Scored	43
Goals Conceded	56

### Leading Scorers

10	Diogo Freitas-Gouveia
9	Ashley Hay
8	Finley Wilkinson
6	Stephen Cawley
4	Bradley Bell, Jack Snelus

### Route to the Final

R1	Hitchin Town	1 - 0	Welwyn Garden City
R2	Hitchin Town	3 - 2	Potters Bar Town
QF	Hitchin Town	1 - 0	Stevenage
SF	Cheshunt	0 - 2	Hitchin Town



## Berkhamsted

Currently 1st in the Southern Football League Division One Central  
As at 27/03/2023

### League Form

Games Won	25
Games Drawn	2
Games Lost	3
Goals Scored	78
Goals Conceded	25

### Leading Scorers

19	Ryan Blake
18	Jonathan Lacey
6	Adam Watkins
4	Joshua Chamberlain
4	Bradley Wadkins

### Route to the Final

R1	Berkhamsted	4 - 2	Kings Langley
R2	Harpenden Town	2 - 3	Berkhamsted
QF	Berkhamsted	3 - 0	Enfield
SF	Berkhamsted	3 - 0	Watford U21



# Meet the Players

## Berkhamsted

Tells us about your squad....

### Cameron Groom

A 20 year old keeper who has been ever present in for us in this cup run. A capable shot stopper, his solid performances helped secure clean sheets against Enfield and Watford to reach this final.

### Jack Tompkins

21 year old who joined as a midfielder from Thame United. Has been a revelation since converting to full back. Rare for an attacker to get past him on our right hand side and he contributes well on the overlap.

### Tom Silford

27 year old left back, Tom has been a consistent performer since his return to the club from AFC Dunstable, as part of a mean defence. Can also play in midfield on the left hand side when required.

### Ryan Kinnane

Skipper who demands high standards from his fellow defenders. Wins a lot of ball in the air and on the ground. A major reason why the club keeps so many clean sheets. Picks a fine long pass to start many attacks.

### Tommy Smith

30 year old cultured defender who makes the game look easy and has formed a formidable partnership with Ryan Kinnane. Comes forward well for free kicks and distributes well out of defence.



### Ben Walster

29 year old who is equally at home at left back or in the centre. Up against one of his former clubs in this final. Left footer who specialises in dead balls. Attackers know they have been in a game against him.

### Ryan Neufville

24 year old defender who is normally at right back but can also play centrally and move forward when required. Back after a brief spell with Barton Rovers.



### Ross Oulton

Moved down from the Midlands in the summer and has become a key player just in front of the back four. Likes to take a free kick. Previous clubs include Stratford Town, Bedford Town and Daventry Town.

### Connor Toomey

28 year old who generally plays in midfield but also had a spell at left back. Came through the club's youth team. Back with us after a spell with Hayes and Yeading.

### Adam Watkins

31 year old who makes the midfield tick with some defence splitting passes. Former Luton player who drifts past opponents and rarely wastes the ball. Signed from Royston, he has also played for Chesham, Bedford, Dunstable and Cambridge City.

### Luke Andrews

19 year old who plays in midfield and followed the manager from Biggleswade United. Often makes an impact from the bench with his ability to beat players and gets forward well.

### Josh Chamberlain

29 year old product of the club's youth set up. Has played everywhere from left back to centre forward and is record appearance holder and top career scorer. Strikes a good dead ball and can win the ball in the air.

### Jonathan Lacey

24 year old who is leading scorer so far this season. He has an exceptional first touch, scores with some fine bending shots and often dribbles past defenders. An England C international. Previous clubs are Hemel Hempstead and Leverstock Green.

### Alie Bangura

24 year old box of tricks who drifts past defenders for fun. Prolific scoring record has attracted Chris Devane to keep signing him. Recently signed permanently again for us after a spell with Kings Langley.

### Tobi Coker

24 year old who has netted some spectacular goals since signing from Waltham Abbey earlier in the season.

### Lynton Goss

Missed much of the season with injury but is now back to his goalscoring best. Works well in combination with Ryan Blake. A player with a very high goals per game ratio wherever he has played.

### Brad Wadkins

29 year old who stepped down a division at Christmas from Kings Langley. Strong on the ball, he creates goals as well as taking a good proportion of his chances.

### James Verney

24 year old who has pace and can score goals. May be up against one of his old teams in the final. Back after a spell with Dunstable earlier in the season.

### Ryan Blake

31 year old who was a summer signing from Thame United. Has plenty of pace and is a difficult man to shake off the ball, he also hangs in the air well for headers. Ryan has consistently scored goals throughout his career.



# Club Profile

## Berkhamsted



The current incarnation of The Comrades look set to continue their rise up the leagues

The club 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. That club later changed its 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.

Micky Vipond was the club's manager seeing it through to the Premier Division where it stayed until 2018. Under Steve Bateman the runners-up spot was taken earning promotion to The Southern League. Runners up in 2022, another promotion taking us up to Step 3 looks like coming with the league title this season.

County honours include winning the Charity Shield in 2019, and reaching the Charity Cup Final in 2020 with COVID preventing it being played. The SSMFL Premier Division cup was won in 2015 and other cup success has included reaching the last 16 of The FA Vase in 2016, twice reaching the quarter finals of The Southern League Cup.



Berkhamsted Photographs: Robson O'Reardon

# League Season

## Southern Football League Division One Central

As at 27/03/2023

		P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	<b>Berkhamsted</b>	30	25	2	3	78	25	53	77
2	<b>Biggleswade FC</b>	29	16	8	5	62	38	24	56
3	<b>Didcot Town</b>	31	17	5	9	46	36	10	56
4	<b>Walthamstow</b>	29	16	5	8	46	35	11	53
5	<b>Ware</b>	30	16	4	10	63	50	13	52
6	<b>Biggleswade Town</b>	32	14	9	9	64	49	15	51
7	<b>Cirencester Town</b>	30	14	6	10	55	34	21	48
8	<b>Kidlington</b>	31	14	6	11	45	39	6	48
9	<b>Welwyn Garden City</b>	31	14	5	12	46	53	-7	47
10	<b>AFC Dunstable</b>	31	12	9	10	47	34	13	45
11	<b>Waltham Abbey</b>	31	13	6	12	48	40	8	45
12	<b>Hadley</b>	30	13	5	12	54	44	10	44
13	<b>Kempston Rovers</b>	31	9	7	15	47	55	-8	34
14	<b>Hertford Town</b>	31	8	8	15	60	63	-3	32
15	<b>Thame United</b>	31	8	8	15	46	50	-4	32
16	<b>Aylesbury United</b>	29	7	6	16	30	55	-25	27
17	<b>Highworth Town</b>	30	6	8	16	44	76	-32	26
18	<b>Barton Rovers</b>	31	4	7	20	27	71	-44	19
19	<b>FC Romania</b>	30	4	4	22	26	87	-61	13

## Give us your analysis of the season so far...

We have been an incredible run of form, putting the club in touching distance of historic league and cup success. So far we have won all of our 21 competitive matches at home this season and a couple of cup exits aside, the only defeats have been away in the league at Ware, FC Romania and Hertford Town.

2023 started with a 13 match winning streak and at the time of writing, just one more point is needed to clinch the league title and secure a place in the Premier Division. In addition, this is the first time the current incarnation of the club has reached the final of the Senior Cup, meaning this could potentially be a very special week for the club.



# Guest of Honour

## Chris Spriggins

Goalkeeper turned referee turned administrator  
and President of Hertfordshire FA



Chris enjoyed a successful career as a goalkeeper, playing with Benington for 15 seasons before turning to refereeing in 1977. He eventually hung up his whistle in 2005 due to knee problems, but continues to be heavily involved in the administration of the game.

In his time he has held many positions, including Referees Secretary of the East Anglian Sunday Youth Cup and the Stevenage Sunday League, where he was also later President. He also served as President of the North Herts Referees Society for 11 years.

Elected to Hertfordshire FA in 1997, Chris fulfilled a number of roles over the years, before joining the Board in 2011. In addition to duties as a member of the Disciplinary Panel he currently serves as President of the Association.

We are delighted to welcome Chris to today's final where he will meet the teams before the game and also present the medals at the end of the match.

## Today's Match Officials

### Matthew Norton (Referee)

Good luck to both teams and congratulations on reaching this final. I'd also like to congratulate my colleagues working with me tonight on their appointment. I've been refereeing for 12 years and currently operate in the National League South as a referee.

### Andrew Tregoning (Assistant)

I'm a Level 4 Referee (a Step 5 Referee and a Step 3/4 Assistant Referee). I have been refereeing for 14 years now, starting with youth football when I was 14 years old, before moving on to adult football at 16 and haven't looked back.

### Christopher Poole (Assistant)

I have been an official for 7 years. Originally from Lancashire, I refereed whilst at university before moving south to Welwyn Garden City. I am now a Level 3 referee and have thoroughly enjoyed my first year at a new level. Tonight's cup final is a great reward for a very good season.

### Jorden Gibson (Fourth Official)

Honoured to be part of tonight's fixture. Two good football sides who will no doubt provide us all with an entertaining game. I'm a Level 3 ref and National League Assistant and work full time in the football, striking the balance of a coach and referee.



**If you have any unwanted kit, shirts, shorts, and boots please donate them to KitAid, a charity that sends kit to Africa, India, Eastern Europe and other developing countries.**

Hertfordshire FA is delighted to partner KitAid. KitAid is a charity doing extraordinary work, you only have to see the faces of the people receiving the donated kit to know the impact they, along with their partner charities are having. We often forget how lucky we are in this country and Hertfordshire FA encourage all of our clubs to donate any old or unwanted kit and equipment to KitAid so that it can be reused by people around the world.

**We welcome donations of adult and children's kit.**

*Thank you for your support!*

**If you would like to know more about KitAid log on to [www.kitaid.net](http://www.kitaid.net) or [www.kitaid.blogspot.com](http://www.kitaid.blogspot.com)**

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# Hertfordshire FA County Cup Finals 2023



Join us for more exciting action as our competitions reach their climax

## Wednesday 15th March 7:45pm Intermediate Cup

Won by Hemel Hempstead Rovers

## Wednesday 22 March 7:45pm Senior Centenary Trophy

Won by Ware Sports

## Saturday 25 March 2:30pm U18 Girls Cup

Won by Watford Ladies Youth

## Wednesday 29 March 7:45pm\* Senior Challenge Cup

Hitchin Town v Berkhamsted FC

## Friday 7 April 2:30pm Junior Cup

Elizabeth Allen Old Boys v Sun Sports Rovers

## Sunday 16 April 2:30pm Sunday Intermediate Cup

Brookmans Park v Little Heath

## Sunday 23 April 10:30am U15 Boys Cup

Baldock Town v Colney Heath Youth

## Sunday 23 April 2:30pm Women's Cup

Stevenage Women v Royston Town Women

## Saturday 29 April 10:30am U16 Girls Cup

Watford FC CSE Trust v Knebworth Youth

## Sunday 30 April 2:30pm Sunday Junior Cup

FC Emperors Head v Glenn Sports

## Sunday 7th May 10:30am U16 Boys Cup

Ware FC Academy v Harpenden Town

## Sunday 7th May 2:30pm U18 Boys Cup

Cheshunt v Hemel Hempstead Town

## Saturday 20 May 10:30am U14 Girls Cup

Watford Ladies Youth v Bedwell Rangers

## Saturday 20 May 2:30pm U15 Girls Cup

Watford Ladies Youth v Hitchin Belles Youth

## Sunday 21 May 10:30am U14 Boys Cup

Ware FC Academy v Cheshunt Youth

## Sunday 21 May 3:00pm Sunday Senior Cup

Finalists to be confirmed

\* All finals to be played at The County Ground, Letchworth with the exception of the Senior Challenge Cup which is being held at Theobalds Lane, Cheshunt



V



Charlie Horlock

Bradley Bell

Layne Eadie

Toby Syme

Jack Morrell

Lewis Barker

Finley Wilkinson

Josh Coldicott-Stevens

Ashley Hay

Daniel Idiakhwa

Josh Allen

Steve Cawley

Josh Mollison

Jack Snelus

Kavan Cotter

Kye Tearle

Diogo Freitas-Gouveia

Ciaren Jones

George Devine

Stephen Gleeson

Cameron Groom

Jack Tompkins

Tom Silford

Ross Oulton

Ryan Kinnane

Ben Walster

Jonathan Lacey

Adam Watkins

Ryan Blake

Lynton Goss

Brad Wadkins

Alie Bangura

Ryan Neufville

Tommy Smith

Luke Andrews

Josh Chamberlain

Tobi Coker

Connor Toomey

James Verney

**Manager:** Mark Burke

**Assistants:** Adam Parker, Michael Jones,  
Josh Bickerstaff, John Albon

**Colours:** Yellow Shirts, Green  
Shorts, Green Socks

**Manager:** Chris Devane

**Assistants:** Trishan Patel, Darren Locke,  
Aaron Morgan, Rory McMullen

**Colours:** White Shirts, Black  
Shorts, Black Socks

**Referee:**  
Matthew Norton

**Assistants:**  
Andrew Tregoning, Christopher Poole

**Fourth Official:**  
Jorden Gibson