

WE ARE UNITED



# BANBURY UNITED

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME



**BANBURY UNITED V HITCHIN TOWN**  
**SATURDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> NOVEMBER 2024 | K.O. 3.00PM**  
Pitching In Southern League Premier Division Central



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# CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME



Good afternoon everyone.

Welcome to our latest game after what feels like a long time away from playing here.

As always, we offer a very warm welcome to the supporters, players, staff and directors of Hitchin Town FC. We have all seen so far this season that any team can win on a given day, so I expect a firm test here this afternoon for Simon and the squad.

As we work towards the winter schedule of matches, it is great to see that we are getting back to full strength with a full squad of players to choose from. We have started to show that with an available first team, we are very competitive on any match day. The result against Spalding was very disappointing, but the bounce back against Biggleswade was superb to see, especially the numbers of supporters who travelled to back the team. The interaction between the fans and players is growing at every game, and I know how much this means to Simon, his staff and all the players.

On a side note, join us on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November from 9am to 9pm for an epic 12-hour triathlon in support of BBC Children in Need! Whether you're a

seasoned athlete or just looking for a fun way to get involved, this event is for everyone. For further information on how to get involved, email [carlparton@banburyunitedfc.co.uk](mailto:carlparton@banburyunitedfc.co.uk).

We are thrilled to welcome Caprinos Pizza as our matchday sponsor for today's clash against Hitchin Town!

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Join us in enjoying a great match and delicious pizza!

Be loud, be proud and enjoy the game.  
Wayne

## **BANBURY UNITED FOOTBALL CLUB**

is a Community Benefit Society registered under the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014. Reg No. 7135, as Banbury United Community Football Club Ltd.

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**FOOTBALL SECRETARY:** Carl Ashford

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# FROM THE DUGOUT

## Simon Says...



Good afternoon everyone and a warm welcome to supporters, friends and volunteers alike as we continue our journey this season. I'd like to extend my welcome to include players officials and supporters who have made the trip from Hitchin. We are anticipating a stern test today, despite the recent departure of Brett, as we expect Michael to have the team prepared for this afternoon's encounter, following their 3-0 victory on Tuesday in the Hertfordshire Senior Cup.

At our last home game 18 days ago, we were all delighted with the result against Bedford given their attacking prowess. Four days later at Spalding, whilst we were aggrieved at some of the decisions against us, the players took ownership of the situation and accepted that our levels of resilience and aptitude weren't aligned to our targets for the season. And it was evident at Biggleswade that the players showed a reaction rather than discussing the reaction that we all wanted. There were many pleasing aspects to our performance.

The four games in 11 days is always a challenge for teams at this level given the

depth of resources, but as a group we learnt more about ourselves during this period due to the characters in the dressing room. Successful foundations and high performance teams have really good ingredients of attitude, but without the aptitude, it is irrelevant.

Given that we are now 30% into the season, we are continuing to identify areas of our performance that we feel can be enhanced, given that the group only came together four months ago.

As we continue to shape our backroom staff and 20-man squad to maximise the balance and quality, we are fully focused on the next part of our season which starts today.

We are equally grateful for the genuine supporters who have contributed significantly in our campaign so far. Your connection and presence with the team is special and means a lot to all of us in the dressing room. Thank you.

UTP  
Simon



Click on the Puritans Radio logo to hear what Simon had to say in his latest weekly interview with Puritans Radio (recorded on 24<sup>th</sup> October 2024)



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# MATCH GUESTS



We're excited to welcome **Discount Builders Merchants (DBM)** as our Match Ball Sponsor for today's game against Hitchin Town! A brand-new sponsor to Banbury United, DBM is dedicated to serving the local building and construction community with a wide range of top-quality materials at competitive prices.

DBM is a go-to resource for both professional builders and DIY enthusiasts alike, with branches across London and the South East and a commitment to providing excellent service and advice. From timber and insulation to plumbing, roofing, and general building materials, DBM has everything needed to get the job done.

To celebrate this new partnership, DBM has kindly provided travel mugs, available as a complimentary gift with any purchase in the John Ward Club Shop. You can also win one as a prize over at the Programme shop today—so don't miss out!

A big thank you to Discount Builders Merchants for their support of Banbury United.

We also welcome Hill View Primary School to the Banbury Plant Hire Community Stadium after winning our Euro 2024 Sweepstake.

Hill View School provides two after school clubs a week - a mixed boys session on a Monday afternoon and a girls only club on a Tuesday. Over the past couple of years Banbury United and Hill View Primary School have developed a fantastic partnership. This matchday experience is a big part of that and we feel privileged being able to welcome pupils, parents and staff from the school to today's match.

The take up from staff members and parents has been fantastic proving the impact we are starting to gain in schools locally. Some of the children that attend the after school clubs will be our mascots for today's match and will be invited to test their footballing skills in a penalty shoot-out at half time. They will also be invited to join their parents and the Hill View School staff members for a photo opportunity on the pitch at half-time.

We hope everyone from Hill View Primary School has a great day with us!

#WeAreUnited



# HITCHIN TOWN HISTORY



Hitchin Town can trace its roots back to 1865 when Hitchin FC was formed. The club took part in the first FA Cup in 1871/72, progressing to the second round of the competition before losing to eventual finalists Royal Engineers. That first Hitchin club folded in 1911, debt-ridden and the victims of a fire at their ground.

It was not until 1928 that Hitchin Town FC was formed, and it was at this point that the nickname "The Canaries" was established. The club colours of amber and black at that time were also agreed upon. Prior to that, the old club is known to have played in all white; claret and magenta; and claret and black. Hitchin gained admission to the Spartan League. In the 1928/29 season, Hitchin enjoyed a hugely successful campaign, winning the Herts Charity Shield and promotion to the Spartan League Division One.

The 1930s were halcyon days for Hitchin Town FC. Promotion to the Spartan Premier Division was won in 1931, but it was the cup successes that captured the imagination of the Hitchin public. Although there is little doubt that Hitchin won more games than at any time in their history, the standard of opposition has to be considered when determining whether the Canaries' side of the period was the finest in the club's history.

Nevertheless, there is little doubt that this was a golden age for Hitchin Town. The club won the AFA Senior Cup in 1932, beating Derbyshire Amateurs in the final, and won the Spartan League Premier Division in 1935. The club entered the Athenian League in 1939, but after two league games and a Herts Charity Cup tie, all of which saw Hitchin score seven goals, Adolf Hitler intervened.

Like many clubs, Hitchin struggled in the aftermath of World War Two. It was not until the mid-1950s that the Canaries recovered. In 1953/54, the runners-up spot in the Athenian League was secured and the club reached the last eight of the FA Amateur Cup, losing 10-1 to the mighty Crook Town.

Two years later, a record crowd of 7,878 watched Hitchin beat Wycombe Wanderers 1-0 in the competition, but the club failed to progress beyond the quarter finals again. In 1958, Hitchin's Peter Hammond became the club's first England international. It was around this time that Hitchin appointed former Arsenal and England international Laurie Scott as manager, who brought a new approach to the club. Scott took Hitchin up a level in terms of preparation, training and tactics. The club enjoyed arguably its greatest period in the early 1960s. In 1958/59, the club met Football League opposition for the first time in the FA Cup, narrowly losing to Millwall after a replay. Two years later, Hitchin travelled to Crystal Palace and played in front of 21,000 people. At the same time, an assault on the Athenian League title and the FA Amateur Cup gathered momentum. Unfortunately, Scott's team, the victims of fixture congestion, ran out of steam in the League and fell at the penultimate stage in the Amateur Cup. Walthamstow Avenue beat Hitchin 1-0 at White City, thanks to a disputed penalty. In 1963, Hitchin reached the semi-finals again, but this time went down 4-0 to Sutton United at Craven Cottage.

At the end of the 1962/63 season, the Canaries moved into the Isthmian League. This move was not an easy one for the club, and the early years were a constant struggle. Money was a problem, and there was a hint of scandal when club President Syd Stapleton revealed to the media that the club was paying its "amateur" players. It took some time before the clouds dispersed, and during this period the club said farewell to Laurie Scott.

It was not until Vince Burgess came on board that the club moved forward again. Burgess, a successful coach before he went to Hitchin, brought experienced players to the club, who knew how to win. In 1968/69, Hitchin finished runners-up in the Isthmian League, and a year later won the London Senior Cup, beating St. Albans 4-2 in the final. Burgess declared that Hitchin had "arrived" by winning what was then a highly

prestigious competition. Top Field was shocked a few months later when Burgess left the club.

The 1970s was a period characterised by some exciting cup ties. The Canaries reached the FA Cup competition proper four times – in 1973/74, 1974/75, 1976/77 and 1978/79 – although a giant-killing eluded them. By the end of the decade, however, the club was in decline and the 1980s was a dismal decade in which finances were limited and the emphasis was on youth.

In 1988, Hitchin Town suffered relegation from the Isthmian Premier for the first time. Near misses in the previous three seasons had hinted that a fall was coming, but it was still a major shock to the club. It took five years for Hitchin to get back to the Premier Division but, in between, the club had suffered major financial hardship. It was Andy Melvin, the new owner-manager of Hitchin Town, who led the club back to the Premier Division, winning the Isthmian First Division title in 1992/93. Melvin, a good man-manager, was also thrifty and built a team on very limited resources. In the club's first season back, he took them to eighth place; and in 1994/95, to fifth position.

Andy Melvin will be remembered for his part in two exciting FA Cup runs. In 1994/95, the club became giant killers for the first time, beating Hereford United 4-2 at Top Field in the FA Cup first round. The club had started its cup run in the First Qualifying Round and had been close to exiting on more than one occasion. A year later, the Canaries grabbed their biggest scalp, beating Bristol Rovers 2-1 in the first round, thanks to two early goals. It gave them a second round tie at Gillingham, which they lost 3-0. At this time, the club gained more media attention than at any time in its history. But by 1998, relegation had come once more. However, the club won promotion back to the Isthmian Premier Division at the first attempt, with a new and younger team.

In an age when clubs seem to lurch from crisis to crisis financially, Hitchin's recent history has been relatively stable. Andy Melvin stepped down in 2001, handing over to his assistant Robbie O'Keefe. Robbie was the mastermind of the club's youth academy and, at times, promised to bring success back to Hitchin. But in 2003, he left the club, and former Chelsea and England striker Kerry Dixon took over. At the end of the 2003/04 season, Hitchin left the Isthmian League after more than 40

years, and moved to the Southern League. At the halfway stage of the following season, Dixon, who was unable to commit himself fully to the job, was replaced by Darren Salton. Salton had to rebuild a team that had alarming weaknesses in every department. The last few months of the season were tough: Hitchin failed to win any of their last 11 games. But the following year was better and at the end of 2005/06, the Canaries won the Southern League Cup, beating Bromsgrove Rovers in the two-legged final.

In 2006/07, the Canaries started well. At the halfway point, they were among the title challengers. But a spectacular collapse, fuelled by player unrest, saw Hitchin fall down the table and into relegation trouble. Eventually, Hitchin finished 11<sup>th</sup>, perhaps a flattering position, but nevertheless one which secured Premier Division football in 2007/08. After a lacklustre start to 2007/08, Darren Salton was released by the club and former player Darran Hay was appointed as manager. Hay had to rebuild his team, and it took time to turn things around, but a revitalised squad, with a strong team spirit, lifted Hitchin out of trouble.

After a poor start to the 2008/09 season, Darran Hay left Hitchin in January 2009. Colin Payne, the former Chertsey, Northwood and Boreham Wood manager was appointed in February 2009. Despite an improvement, the club was relegated at the end of the campaign. Payne rebuilt the Hitchin squad in the summer of 2009, with the aim of achieving promotion at the first attempt.

Hitchin enjoyed a successful 2009/10, winning 31 of 42 league games. A vibrant young side was moulded by Payne and his assistant Carl Williams. For long periods, the Canaries topped the Zamaretto Midlands Division. Hitchin lost just four games in the League, but Bury Town topped the division by two points – despite Payne’s men amassing 100 points. As only one team was automatically promoted, Hitchin had to enter the playoffs for the second promotion place. Sadly, the young Canaries ran out of steam and lost the playoff semi-final to Slough, a team that had finished 23 points behind Hitchin!

A few days after the end of the season, Payne left the club to join Hemel Hempstead. In his place, Carl Williams was appointed as manager. He had a tremendous first season in charge and for much of the 2010/11 campaign, Hitchin looked certain

for the title. But a mid-season drop in form gave local rivals Arlesey the chance to take top place. On the final day of the season, the two clubs met at Top Field for the title decider. Arlesey won 1-0 in front of over 1,500 people. Williams and his team cast that disappointment aside to beat Slough and Daventry in the playoffs to claim the second promotion spot. In their first season back in the Premier, Hitchin enjoyed some bright moments, notably beating eventual champions Brackley as well as promotion chasing AFC Totton and Cambridge City. Once again, the goals of John Frendo lit up the campaign and attendances at Top Field were among the best in the division. The final placing of 14<sup>th</sup> was considered satisfactory, and the club went into 2012/13 looking to improve on that showing.

Carl Williams’ second season in charge started brightly. Yet, despite the massive goals contribution of John Frendo (who had won the non-league football “Golden Boot” the previous season with 44 goals), it proved a difficult season overall. Despite a couple of months where confidence had ebbed away and relegation looked a distinct possibility, previous manager Colin Payne returned to assist the management team, and the Canaries managed to pull through with three or four astute loan signings that bolstered both confidence and results. They finished a creditable 13<sup>th</sup>. However, despite this, Carl decided it was time to take a break from the managerial role and focus on his young family.

Mark Burke was appointed manager in the summer of 2013 and the majority of Carl’s side moved on. Burke and his assistant Adam Parker recruited some new young talent and finished in a creditable 13<sup>th</sup> position, same as the previous season.

Season 2014/15 saw the addition of Jonny McNamara from Arlesey and Charlie Horlock on loan from Wycombe Wanderers, and the experienced Brett Donnelly returning to the club for a second spell from Biggleswade Town. With a solid backline including Alasan Ann and Dan Webb, and the huge promise of youngsters such as Sam Barker, Matt Lench and Lewis Rolfe being realised, the flowing football produced reaped dividends and Hitchin finished in ninth position, their best-ever in the Southern League.

The 2015/16 season proved to be even better. The season started with the prestigious game against a full-strength Premier League Norwich City side, to

celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the formation of the first Hitchin football team. Despite the 10-goal defeat, and defeat on the first day of the season to the newly promoted Stratford Town at home, Mark Burke's young side (average age 24) picked up, went from strength to strength, defied all expectations and finished in third place in the League, showing a marked improvement on the previous season and qualifying for the playoffs. Here, they took a 2-0 lead in the semi-final against the eventual winners Hungerford Town, but eventually ran out of steam and succumbed to a 3-2 defeat. Again, despite this tremendous disappointment, this young team showed great strength of character and picked itself up again to beat National League Boreham Wood to win the Hertfordshire Senior Cup for the first time in 19 years.

The 2016/17 season started with great hope, and most certainly did not disappoint. The now established squad fared even better than the previous season, qualifying for the playoffs in fourth place but with more League points than the previous season. After a fantastic penalty shoot-out victory in the semi-finals at Merthyr Town, the Canaries took on Leamington for a place in the National League South. They came within one minute of promotion in normal time before conceding a 90<sup>th</sup> minute penalty equaliser, and then succumbing to a winning goal from Leamington six minutes from the end of extra time.

They retained the Hertfordshire Senior Cup by beating Bishops Stortford 2-1 and also reached the Herts Charity Cup Final, where a "bad day at the office" resulted in a 1-0 defeat against lower League opposition in the form of Cheshunt.

Since the heights of reaching the playoff final in 2016/17, the Canaries have found survival in the Southern League Premier Division tough going. The seasons between 2017/18 and 2022/23, with or without curtailments, have seen finishes of between 10<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>.

It should be noted, though, during recent years, the Canaries have had a little more success in cup competitions. A second Southern League Cup

success came their way in 2017/18, along with the Herts Charity Cup, which was retained in the 2018/19 season. But the highlight of this season was in the FA Cup, where the Canaries reached the First Round Proper for the first time in 23 years before bowing out at home to Solihull Moors in front of a crowd of 3,148, the highest attendance at Top Field for over 40 years.

Season 2022/23 proved to be, in relative terms, quite successful for the Canaries. The team finished in a very creditable 12<sup>th</sup> position. The team also reached the Hertfordshire Senior Cup final, where they lost narrowly to Berkhamsted on penalties.

The 2023/24 season is one that is best forgotten. After a really bright start where the Canaries found themselves as high as third place in the table in October, they then embarked on an inexplicable downward spiral, the worst in the Club's history, that resulted in only 13 League points being gained out of the last 78 available, and subsequently relegation on the last day of the season after a 92<sup>nd</sup> minute header from goalkeeper Charlie Horlock was blocked on the line in a 0-0 draw against Stourbridge which would have saved the Canaries had it gone in. The season also saw the departure of long-serving manager Mark Burke after 11 years at the helm.

New manager Brett Donnelly, who had an impossible six games to try to stop the downward spiral having moved across from Stotfold to take on the charge of his beloved hometown club, did his very best and brought in two or three signings to try to lift the morale and mentality of the team, but unfortunately the damage was already done. Both Brett and the club as a whole had started building for life at Step 4 and the task of a swift return to Step 3 when out of the blue on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> May, as a result of Coalville Town's resignation from the Southern League (and the timing of it), Hitchin Town were handed a reprieve from relegation. So that has meant an eleventh-hour total rebuild of the squad for Brett, and a completely new squad has been assembled which it is hoped will be competitive, passionate and able to establish itself again at Step 3.

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ASK any manager or coach, proven goal scorers are so desperately hard to come by these days, so, to see not one, but two, Non-League striker legends hang up their scoring boots, it's only right their achievements are celebrated.

Both Sam Higgins and Dave Tarpey have bowed out of the game these last few weeks with their legendary status intact. Stacks of goals wherever they've played and trophies gleaming in the cabinet back home.

When Sam Higgins first stepped into Non-League football as a fresh-faced 17-year-old, little did he know he would forge a career to bring joy to so many.

After nine years at the Millwall academy and a brief stint at Southend United, Higgins dipped his toes in Non-League waters and the rest was history.

In 16 years, Higgins established himself as one of the part-time game's most decorated figures, scoring a whopping 403 career goals and picking up an unrivalled haul of collective and individual accolades along the way.

Undoubtedly, his highlight was an iconic first spell at East Thurrock United, which yielded 275 goals and no fewer than four Golden Boots, at Steps 2, 3 and 4. He also won the Isthmian Premier and North division titles and steered the Rocks to a first-ever Essex Senior Cup success.

At Hornchurch, he lifted the FA Trophy at Wembley and Isthmian Premier title as well as a Player of the Year and Golden Boot double.

With further success came at Chelmsford City (two spells), Bromley, Canvey Island, it's no wonder Higgins made such an impact in and around his native Essex.

But, last week, after picking up a heel injury while playing for Hashtag United, the 35-year-old finally called time on his glittering career, to a social media fanfare from past clubs, managers, teammates and fans.

From his first loan spell at Fisher Athletic to his last hurrah at Hashtag United, Higgins was highly regarded by all and will go down as one of Non-League's all-time greats.

"It's been a very long time and, at some point, it had to come to an end, unfortunately," said Higgins, before admitting he has no burning desire to return to the game in a coaching capacity.

"It was a tough decision, but it felt like the right one. I've had quite a few injuries over the last few seasons and a couple of weeks back I had a heel injury which is probably going to take a few months to recover from.

"Having a lot of injuries can be mentally draining so to be able to come out of it with a sense of achievement is something to be proud of.

"The thing I will miss most about the game is the people. I've met friends for life; managers, players and the people working within the game. Those are the best relationships, ones to last a lifetime."

Tarpey, meanwhile, has a similar tale to tell.

A hat-trick of promotions, a deal to become a professional footballer and a record-breaking goalscoring season, the 35-year-old too boasts a CV that many aspiring footballers could only dream of.

Tarpey announced his retirement last week after rupturing his ACL for a second time, while playing for Marlow against Biggleswade Town in the FA Trophy.

Starting at Basingstoke Town and then Hampton & Richmond, the skilful forward also enjoyed a spell at Farnborough before taking his game to a whole new level at Maidenhead United, scoring 44 goals in their National League South title winning season – still a league record.

That earned him a two-year pro deal at National League high-fliers Barnet but Tarpey suffered a serious knee injury on his home debut, prompting a lengthy period of rehabilitation.

A stint at Woking saw him rediscover his form before Bracknell Town and Leatherhead led him to a promotion-winning season at Marlow under manager Mark Bartley before his latest injury.

“I always said over the last few years, as long as I can stay injury free I’ll keep playing,” Tarpey told the Maidenhead Advertiser.

“I’ve got three children and a fiancé at home who have had to put up with me travelling up and down the country for the last 13 years.

“I got three promotions, won numerous county cups and I can retire and say for the level I’ve played, I feel I’ve had a great career with what I’ve done.

“Some people don’t get promoted at all in their career, to say I’ve won three is a great achievement.”



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# GETTING TO KNOW OUR OPPONENTS



## **Joshua Strizovic – Goalkeeper:**

6'3" goalkeeper on loan from National League outfit Dagenham & Redridge. Previously played for Braintree, Billericay and Harrow Borough where he featured in their FA Cup First Round tie at Portsmouth in 2021.

## **Brad Shaw – Goalkeeper:**

Previous clubs include Oxhey Jets, Hendon & Colney Heath.

## **Lewis Franklin – Defender:**

Joined from Stotfold and has also played for Welwyn Garden City and Baldock Town. Was a member of the Pro:Direct Hitchin Academy and is a coach for Hitchin Town Community FC.

## **Enock Ekongo – Defender:**

Came through the ranks as a youngster in Holland with Roda JC and joined Hitchin from Cheshunt. Previous clubs include Halesowen Town, Chippenham Town and Hayes & Yeading.

## **Bradley Dixon-Smith – Defender:**

Left-sided defender who recently signed from Kings Langley. Previously with Barnet Academy, and has played for Colney Heath and Hemel Hempstead U18s.

## **Jhai Dhillon – Defender:**

Can play anywhere along the left. A former professional with Stevenage FC. Returns to Top Field after a spell away from football concentrating on his highly successful business Simmer Eats.

## **Rio Deall – Defender:**

Versatile full back who joined from AFC Dunstable. Was part of the MK Dons academy up until the age of 18. Has previously played for Aylesbury Vale Dynamos, Kings Langley and Winslow United.

## **Dan Sears – Defender:**

A dominant, tall and quick centre half. Played under Brett Donnelly for the previous three seasons with Stotfold.

## **Toby Syme – Defender:**

Former Norwich City academy defender. Previous clubs include Kings Langley and Harpenden Town. Rejoined the Canaries for a second spell in 2022/23, where he established himself at centre back and won the Manager's Player of the Year award.

## **Ciaren Jones – Defender:**

Played for Luton U18s before a move to Norwich City's U23 side. Won the Manager's Player and Players' Player of the Year awards for the Canaries at the end of 2021/22 season. Joined Brackley Town at the start of the 2022/23 season, but spent most of the season back at the Canaries on loan. Rejoined the Canaries on a permanent basis last season.

## **Lewis Barker – Midfielder:**

Strong, no-nonsense midfielder who rarely loses an aerial battle. Can also play at centre back. Signed for the Canaries at the start of the 2019/20 season from Baldock Town where he had made 222 appearances for the Reds.

**Stephen Gleeson – Midfielder:**

Vastly experienced former Republic of Ireland international, capped four times by his country, who featured for the likes of MK Dons, Birmingham City, Wolverhampton Wanderers and Ipswich Town at Football League level, before moving north of the border to spend two seasons at Aberdeen. He joined the Canaries in November 2021.

**Kieron Forbes – Midfielder:**

Former professional who began his career at Watford FC. An England C international with four caps to his name. Joined from Biggleswade Town, where he helped to secure the Southern League Division One Central title last season.

**Solomon Sambou – Midfielder:**

A holding midfielder, nicknamed the “Enforcer” during his years at Fulham Academy. The 28-year-old has previously played for Hendon, Biggleswade Town, Bedford Town and St Albans City.

**George Morrall – Midfielder:**

An exciting young talent who joined from St Albans City, where he made 19 appearances. Spent last season on loan at Isthmian Premier League Cheshunt.

**Harry Titchmarsh – Midfielder:**

19-year-old who joined from EFL outfit Peterborough United. Made his professional debut in the EFL Cup on 29 August 2023. A hard-working combative midfielder who likes to get on the ball.

**Daniel Stokoe – Midfielder:**

22-year-old who has played in the League of Ireland for Finn Harps. Came through the ranks at Oxford City. Recent clubs include Ashford Town (Middlesex), Cheshunt and Aylesbury United.

**Kye Tearle – Midfielder:**

A versatile player who is a product of Pro:Direct Academy Hitchin. First broke into the first team in the 2020/21 season, and has made over a 100 appearances in a Canaries’ shirt.

**Henry Snee – Forward:**

Rejoined Hitchin Town for a second spell from Stotfold FC where he scored an incredible 27 goals in 37 games last season.

**Liam Brooks – Forward:**

Returned to Hitchin following a spell at Division One champions Biggleswade Town last season. “Brooksy” previously made 67 appearances for the Canaries and was part of the playoff final team against Leamington in 2016/17. Also played for Hendon.

**Coree Wilson – Forward:**

A big, powerful centre forward, who knows where the back of the net is. Joined from Biggleswade United, where he scored 39 goals in the League and Cup, picking up the Manager’s and Players’ Player of the Year awards.

**Joseph Chidyausiku – Forward:**

Powerful striker who recently signed from Kings Langley. A larger than life character, “Chidzy” scored on his debut at Halesowen Town and sealed the Canaries’ first League win of this season. Has National League experience with Havant & Waterlooville, Chelmsford City and St Albans City.

**William McNeill – Forward:**

Young Hitchin Town academy striker prospect being offered his chance by Interim Manager Michael Jones.



## Ever thought of volunteering to help your local football club?

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

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# Hey

# Google



Tell me 10 interesting facts about Hitchin

Hitchin is a market town in North Hertfordshire. It lies in the valley of the River Hiz at the northeastern end of the Chiltern Hills. It is 16 miles northwest of the county town of Hertford, and 35 miles north of London.

It is known to have existed since at least the eighth century AD, it is one of the oldest towns in the county.

The late Queen Elizabeth II stopped at Hitchin for her Diamond Jubilee tour on 14<sup>th</sup> June 2012.



Scenes from the BBC drama series Doctor Foster were filmed in Hitchin. In September 2016, signs were put up around the town centre informing residents that filming for the second series was soon to commence. The first season finale had over ten million viewers which made Doctor Foster one of the BBC's biggest drama shows.

Hitchin Urban District Council, as it was previously known, was the first in Britain to introduce 'black bags' for refuse collection in 1960.

Hitchin's most popular tourist attraction is their never-ending carpet of lavender! It was established as early as the 1500s and became the popular place for medication and perfume.



Besides lavender, Hitchin's other famous crop was corn which was sold at the Market Place for 300 years. The corn exchange was based where the buzzing Pitcher & Piano currently stands, where corn dealers and seed sellers would have set up their stalls.



Former West Ham United and Arsenal midfielder, Jack Wilshere, is from Hitchin. The talented footballer captained The Priory School football team to County Cup and District Cup success from Year 7 to Year 10.

You can see English Longhorn Cattle at Oughtonhead Common just outside of town centre.

The largest parish church in Hertfordshire is St Mary's Church. It's classed as a remarkable landmark for a town as small as Hitchin. Some say that it's evidence of how Hitchin has prospered since the wool trade during medieval times. Inside the church, there is a stunning carved 15th-century screen with figures of angels, a late-medieval wineglass pulpit, 15th-century memorial brasses, and a 12th-century effigy of Bernard of Balliol, ancestor of King John Balliol of Scotland.



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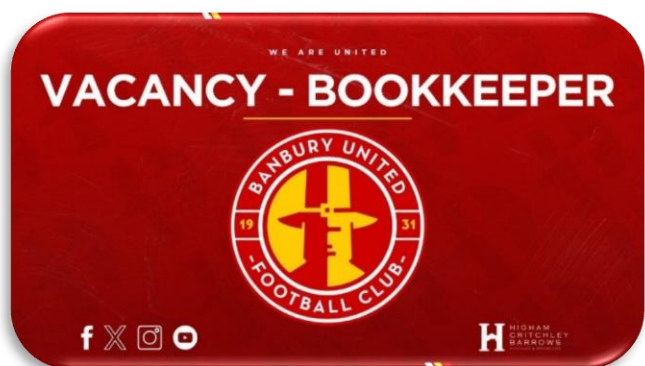
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# THANK YOU KAREN & VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

Banbury United would like to extend its thanks to Karen Hart for all her hard work volunteering as a bookkeeper. Unfortunately, due to other commitments Karens has had to resign from this position. Karen dedicated a huge amount of time to the task and worked tirelessly behind the scenes. The club would like to wish Karen all the best for her future.

Over the past year or so, Karen has transformed our day-to-day accounting into a smooth-running operation fit for the 21<sup>st</sup> century and the digital world. We owe Karen a huge debt of gratitude for taking on what she did and then overseeing her transformation for a complete financial year, before taking a well-deserved rest from these duties.

So, we are looking for one or two volunteers, who are ideally familiar with Xero or similar accounting packages, to work alongside our Treasurer and payroll clerk, and ensure the Club's transactions, management accounts and budgets are in order.



This is a really interesting role for someone intrigued by the inner workings of a football club, who is motivated to donate a few hours per week to their local community. You will be part of a growing business administration team at Banbury United; an intrinsic and appreciated part of the Club.

To learn more about the role or to apply, please contact [carlparton@banburyunitedfc.co.uk](mailto:carlparton@banburyunitedfc.co.uk).

Following on from our recent appeal for a Social Media & Content Manager, we are still on the look-out for help, and would like to hear from anyone who thinks this might be for them.

We're very open-minded to the duties of this role to be split and undertaken by a number of volunteers, especially for those who are concerned they might not have enough time, or for those who would like to develop their skills in one particular area.

Do you think you could help us with any of the following?:



- Social media post writing and publishing – Facebook, X, Instagram and LinkedIn.
- Website article writing (and editing of others' articles), on football and/or general Club news.
- In-match commentary posts on X to keep fans informed. (Own transport required for some matches.)
- Filming and editing of videos and reels for social media and You Tube.
- Back-up photographer for home matches.
- Developing interesting content around the first team, e.g. player interviews, match build-up.
- Social media community management: regularly checking Facebook, X, Instagram and Linked In for notifications and messages, engaging as appropriate.
- Repurposing of matchday programme content as website articles and for socials.

There is help on hand from an enthusiastic, established team of comms volunteers. If you are looking to develop a career in football media or are a digital-savvy person wanting to donate time and skills to their local football club and would like a chat, then please get in touch with Claire via [clairedumbreck@banburyunitedfc.co.uk](mailto:clairedumbreck@banburyunitedfc.co.uk).

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# VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH



We are thrilled to highlight Clive Wright as our Volunteer of the Month for September! For over four years, Clive has been a vital part of Banbury United FC, contributing his time and skills to multiple areas of the Club.

Clive is the driving force behind our community lottery, ensuring it runs smoothly and he continues to provide essential support to the Club. On matchdays, he also manages the 50/50 ticket sales, which have seen incredible success under his leadership, bringing fantastic results for both the Club and lucky supporters. His energy and enthusiasm in these roles have been a huge boost to our matchday experience.

In addition to his efforts with the lottery and 50/50 tickets, Clive is a key member of the grounds team, helping maintain the pitch and supporting the club's day-to-day activities. His tireless work behind the scenes is invaluable, and he never hesitates to step in wherever help is needed.

As a Community Benefit Society run largely by volunteers, we rely on individuals like Clive who go above and beyond for Banbury United FC. His dedication and commitment over the years have made a lasting impact, and we are incredibly grateful for everything he does.

Thank you, Clive, for all your hard work and for being such an essential part of the Banbury United family!

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Contact Natalie for further information:  
[natalie@banburyunitedfc.co.uk](mailto:natalie@banburyunitedfc.co.uk)





# PLYMOUTH PARKWAY 3 BANBURY UNITED 2



## FA Trophy Third Qualifying Round Saturday, 5<sup>th</sup> October 2024

After the marathon journey to the Devon/Cornwall border, United bowed out of FA competitions for another season, in their first-ever trip to Plymouth on 5<sup>th</sup> October. United were weakened by injuries and suspensions, but Plymouth were well worth their victory against a very young Banbury side.

The opening ten minutes saw both sides going close, with both Callum Hall for Plymouth and Charlie Donaldson for United having shots well saved before the home side took the lead, when Dylan Jones went on a mazy run through the Banbury defence before slotting the ball home from 15 yards with ease, just inside the post.

Plymouth should have made the game a lot safer almost straight away when Jones could have added to his goal after 12 minutes, but Jack Harding saved well. Jones again went close in the 19<sup>th</sup> minute, as Banbury struggled to contain Parkway. Shane White was very close in the 26<sup>th</sup> minute when his shot came back off the inside of the post before being cleared. Just one minute later saw Rio Garside unleash a fierce shot which was beaten away at the near post by Harding for yet another corner. United's defence, although short on numbers, was not short on bravery and hard work, and they restricted the home side to a single goal advantage as the half hour arrived. Charlie Donaldson was unlucky when he was caught offside when clear through, but two minutes later, Banbury defied all logic when they drew level. Harry Reilly went on a run up the right flank. When his cross evaded the wrong-footed home defence, Jaanai Gordon clipped the ball home superbly with a deft shot from the outside of his boot, 15 yards out. Twice in the next five minutes, Harding came to Banbury's rescue again when he made a couple of point-blank saves to deny Thomas Dean and Jones respectively.

However, Parkway regained the lead in the 40<sup>th</sup> minute in classic style when Mikey Williams crashed the ball home with a shot into the top corner which would have beaten any 'keeper in the land, even Harding!

Five minutes into the second half saw the all-important third goal for Plymouth, and it was another classic strike, this time from Jones who slotted home from inside the six-yard box to notch his second and Plymouth's third.

Banbury managed to pull a goal back in the 73<sup>rd</sup> minute when a mis-hit back pass fell well short of 'keeper Ewan Griffiths. Gordon intercepted the ball and laid it to Connor Ferguson who curled the ball home with consummate ease to make the final 15 minutes well worth the entrance fee. However, whilst either side could have scored again, it was the home side that held on for the victory and a place in the First Round Proper.

**Plymouth Parkway:** Ewan Griffiths, Thomas Dean, Ryan Brett, Taylor Scarff, Shane White (captain), Michael Williams (50 mins. Corey Koerner), Callum Hall, Rio Garside, Dylan Jones, Mitchel Beardmore, Matthew Wright. Subs (not used) Joe Wragg, Alexander Cairo, James Watts-Barciela, Gene Price

**Banbury United:** Jack Harding (captain), Tai Fleming, Tom Cartwright (69 mins. Connor Ferguson), Gift Mussa, Gedeon Okito, Matty Donaldson (59 mins. Harvey Westwood, 71 mins. Neo Dobson), Harry Reilly, Archie Hollyhead (75 mins. Claudio Dias), Jaanai Gordon, Charlie Donaldson (59 mins. Matthew Ireland), AJ George

Attendance: 253



**PLYMOUTH PARKWAY 3  
BANBURY UNITED 2**





Click the picture below to watch the highlights from our match against Plymouth Parkway on 5<sup>th</sup> October 2024



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# BANBURY UNITED 0 BROMSGROVE SPORTING 0

Saturday, 12<sup>th</sup> October 2024



In a game that Banbury would have expected to win, they got off to a quick start. As early as the eighth minute, a cross from the bye-line from AJ George found Jaanai Gordon inside the six-yard box, but his point blank header was saved incredibly on the goal-line by Sporting 'keeper Charles Price, to deny United the lead. Unfortunately for the expectant supporters, this was as good as the goal action was likely to get, as both sides were shot-shy for the rest of the afternoon. In fact, it was difficult to remember Jack Harding having an on-target shot to save as Bromsgrove lacked any kind of attacking pressure throughout.

Within the last ten minutes of the first half, the lively George Ball tried two shots from distance, but neither troubled Price as the teams went in goal-less at the interval.

The second half was a very sorry affair for the decent-sized crowd, as both defences stood tall and proud doing their jobs to great effect. In fact, one had the feeling that if they had played for another hour, the game would still have finished 0-0.

**Banbury United:** Jack Harding, Tai Fleming, Gedeon Okito, Alex Prosser (88 mins. Claudio Dias), Yaw Ofose (captain), Nico Jones, Tommy Cartwright, Jaanai Gordon, AJ George, George Ball (88 mins. Connor Ferguson), Gift Mussa. Subs (not used) Matty Donaldson, Charlie Donaldson, Prince Henry

**Bromsgrove Sporting:** Charles Price, Shay Palmer, Reece King, Ashley Carter, Luke Rowe (captain), Harry Crook (61 mins. James Meddows), Jack Newell, Ethan Patterson, Carter Lycett, Joshua Ezeweke, Charles Wragg (73 mins. Theo Robinson) Subs (not used) Demico Burton, Aaron Roberts, Aksum White.

Attendance: 691



**BANBURY UNITED 0  
BROMSGROVE SPORTING 0**





**Click the picture below to watch the highlights from our match against Bromsgrove Sporting on 12<sup>th</sup> October 2024**



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# BANBURY UNITED 2 BEDFORD TOWN 0

Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> October 2024



With the Eagles sitting at the top of the League and Banbury finding it fairly hard to score, this was always going to be a difficult game for United. But after the opening quarter hour, Banbury blew Bedford away with their best performance of the season so far. The players knew what they had to do, and they did it with plenty of energy and determination.

Banbury already knew a lot about the Bedford right-back Sam Brown, and his throw-ins that always land in the six-yard box, but the best defence in the League were not going to be easy fodder for the former United favourite. Whilst they used this ploy throughout the game, Bedford looked anything but top-of-the-table material. As soon as Banbury saw that they were the better team, the writing was on the wall for the Eagles.

United took the lead in the 20<sup>th</sup> minute, following some good approach play from Harry Reilly. He released the ball to Jaanai Gordon on the right who fooled everyone when he feinted to pass but instead hit an unstoppable left foot shot from 15 yards across the face of the goal and into the far corner. Four minutes later United, spurned an even better chance when great work by AJ George resulted in him beating two defenders and screwing the ball back from the bye-line to Reilly, but his point-blank volley from inside the six-yard box somehow deflected off a defender on the goal line, and spun away for a corner. Banbury's possession was probably the best that we have seen this season, and they took control of the game. Although they were by far the better team, they were still a little wary of shooting, preferring instead to keep possession on the edge of the opposition's penalty area. George Ball was proving to be a thorn in Bedford's side as he looked for a shooting outlet, and AJ's approach play gave Sam Brown and his left-sided colleagues a very busy evening.

Whatever was in the half-time cuppa worked wonders, as the team management's contribution certainly gave the players the extra confidence they needed. United were well on top by the hour mark. Connor Ferguson certainly looked a great addition to the squad after his enforced lay-off and he gave a sterling performance as the game progressed.

The all-important second goal arrived in the 77<sup>th</sup> minute when great work from Ferguson released AJ George, who jinked past two defenders before shooting low from 10 yards to beat 'keeper Oliver Bosworth in the right corner.

This victory was no more than the team deserved, and their play was easily the best that has been seen this season. Whilst we could have, and should have, scored another two or three goals, our stingy defence giving nothing away meant we had nothing to worry about.

Whilst it is a team game, we do have to be thankful for the best goalkeeper in the League, coupled with the tightest back three, four or five, as being the main reason why we are playing so well and why we have only conceded six goals and have kept seven clean sheets. We do have to keep alert, though, as our next three opponents are all in the bottom five of the League, so we need to continue to work hard and not become over confident.

**Banbury United:** Jack Harding, Tai Fleming, Alex Prosser (81 mins. Claudio Dias), Yaw Ofosu (captain), Nico Jones, Harry Reilly (82 mins. Tommy Cartwright), Connor Ferguson, Jaanai Gordon (89 mins. Prince Henry), AJ George (90 + 3 mins. Gedeon Okito), George Ball (85 mins. Charlie Donaldson), Gift Mussa.

**Bedford Town:** Oliver Bosworth, Albert Wood, Sam Brown, Dequane Wilson-Braithwaite (77 mins. Henry Dudley), Lewis Green, Devonte Aransibia (63 mins. Ekow Coker), Robert Hall (43 mins. Gucci Soulya-Osekanongo), Elliott Simmons, Dejou Noel-Williams (65 mins. Samuel Tinubu), Leon Lobjoit, Ryan Blake (captain). Sub (not used) Joshua Flanagan.

Attendance: 518



**Click the picture below to watch the highlights from our match against Bedford Town on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2024**



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# ALL OUR YESTERDAYS



## 30 Years Ago

Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> November 1994 saw us take the "long and winding road" to Meadowbank home of Shortwood United for a Hellenic League Premier Division game. Banbury took control of the game from the start and took the lead in the sixth minute. Carl Hamilton won the ball in his own half and played it forward to John Evans who powered past the Shortwood defence to shoot strongly past Shortwood goalkeeper from just outside the penalty area. Evans made it 2-0 after 18 minutes and then Banbury's third arrived on the 30 minute mark courtesy of a Jody McKay header. Banbury were totally dominant but a few minutes from half time, in virtually their first attack, Shortwood pulled a goal back and then unbelievably scored a second just a minute later to make it 3-2 at half time. Not surprisingly these two quick goals changed the game and Banbury were under virtually constant pressure in the second half but good goalkeeping, goal line clearances and the woodwork somehow kept Shortwood out and Banbury held on for the three points.

Banbury Team: Tim Williams, Carl Hamilton, Andy Farr, Darren Reynolds, Neil Sole, Darren Williams, Dave Bristow, Paul Warrington, John Evans, Martin Singleton, Jody McKay, Subs: Karlton Stratford (on for Singleton), Ian Castle (not used).

## 40 Years Ago

Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 1984 saw Banbury United travel to Sutton Coldfield for a Southern League Midland Division game. The Puritans had gained just two points from their first seven matches and with the Royals unbeaten hopes were not high that we would return from Coles Lane with anything but another defeat. New signings Terry Muckelberg, Bruce McCrae and Paul Lee made their debuts for Banbury. The game was goalless at half time but three goals for the home side in the space of nine minutes early in the second half sealed the victory for the Royals leaving Banbury still searching for their first League win of the season and now occupying bottom place in the League table.

Banbury Team: Mark Taylor, Martin Allen, Godfrey Welch, Dave Matthews, Colin Darvell, Keith Mitchell, Dave Bristow, John Baker, Bruce McCrae, Paul Lee, Terry Muckelberg Sub: Alan Buckingham (on for Baker).

## 70 Years Ago

Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> November 1954 saw Banbury Spencer make their only ever visit to Symingtons of Market Harborough for a Birmingham League game. Symingtons was a corsetry factory in the town that was apparently famous for the manufacture of the "liberty bodice". Their works football team had been playing in the United Counties League but for this one season they stepped up to the Birmingham League. With Banbury having links to its own women's underwear factory, Spencer Corsets, I wonder if this game was billed as the "battle of the corset makers"? Anyway, we had better leave aside the matter of women's undergarments and return to the football. After a goalless first half Jimmy Bradley put Banbury in front in the 65<sup>th</sup> minute but within three minutes of taking the lead the Puritans were losing 2-1. Bradley would however grab his second of the game for Banbury with just five minutes remaining to ensure that the visitors returned to the Spencer Stadium with a point. After the game Banbury were in fourth place in the league table with 16 points from 11 games just two points behind leaders Redditch. Three consecutive League defeats over the course of the next few weeks would however seriously reduce expectations of a challenge for the league title.

Banbury Team: Frank McCormack, Cedric Bennett, Archie Crilly, Harry Meadows, Brian Stone, Mick Jenkins, Ralph Tallis, Tommy McGarrity, Barry Thomas, Colin Whetton, Jimmy Bradley.



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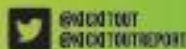
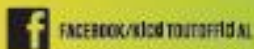
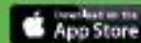
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If you are interested in participating, please email: [kirsty@banburyunitedfc.co.uk](mailto:kirsty@banburyunitedfc.co.uk).

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Adult Training Shorts:	£22.00 (members' price £19.80)
Junior Training Shorts:	£15.00 (members' price £13.50)
Adult Woven White T-shirt:	£20.00 (members' price £18.00)

# UPCOMING MATCHES



## **Bishop's Stortford v Banbury United – Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2024 K.O. 3.00pm** **The RDA Stadium, Dunmow Road, Bishop's Stortford CM23 5RG**

The Puritans will make their second trip to The RDA Stadium in as many seasons next weekend as Simon Hollyhead's side will look to right the wrongs of last season's 3-1 defeat. Like Banbury, Bishop's Stortford found life at Step 2 incredibly challenging last season with the side finishing bottom of the pile in their first season back after winning promotion from the Isthmian League Premier Division the season before. However, they did claim some notable victories over the likes of Chester, Buxton and Darlington (twice). Stortford are finding life back at Step 3 challenging and currently languishing in the last relegation spot after 12 games picking up four wins, two draws and six defeats. They do, however, have a game in hand on a number of the sides above them including the Puritans. Your travelling support this season has been superb and it really does make a difference to Simon Hollyhead and his team. It would be great to see another large away following backing the side in their quest for all three points.

### **Tickets:**

- Adults - £15
- Concessions - £10
- Student - £8
- Under 12 - Free

### **Travel:**

Parking is available at the RDA Stadium at a price of £3 per vehicle, however, this does fill up quickly so an early arrival is strongly advised.

For any Puritans looking to take the train via London Liverpool Street, Bishop's Stortford Railway Station is a 20 minutes to walk to the stadium.



## **Banbury United v Stourbridge – Saturday, 16<sup>th</sup> November 2024 K.O. 3.00pm** **The Banbury Plant Hire Community Stadium**

The Puritans entertain Stourbridge at the Banbury Plant Hire Community Stadium on 16th November. The Glassboys have had an excellent start to the season and find themselves currently sat in third place with 22 points from their opening 13 games. However, due to the incredibly tight nature of the Southern League Premier Division Central Table this season, they sit just one point above the Puritans who find themselves seventh place prior to our match against Hitchin Town.

The visit of The Glassboys will see recent new signing Alex Prosser go toe-to-toe with a number of familiar foes following his recent switch in October. It would be great to see the stands of the Banbury Plant Hire Community Stadium packed out for the visit of Stourbridge as Simon Hollyhead's side look to make ground on the playoff chasing pack.

### **Tickets:**

- Adults - £14
- Concessions - £10
- Student - £8
- Under 18 - £5
- Under 11 - Free

Members, and holders of a Banbury United promotional flyer for October and November fixtures, will receive a £1 discount on these prices.

Click [here](#) to access Banbury United's ticketing site.

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The advertisement for Modex Exhibitions features a red background with a white soccer ball and net on the left. The Modex Exhibitions logo is in the top right. Below the text 'Proudly supporting our local community:' are three logos: Banbury United Football Club, Banbury Rugby Football Club, and Banbury Hockey.

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EXHIBITIONS

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## FIRST MEETING BETWEEN THE CLUBS

### FA CUP FIRST QUALIFYING ROUND 4TH SEPTEMBER 1966 HITCHIN TOWN 1 BANBURY UNITED 4

Manager Len Goulden gambled when he dropped inside forward Tony Jacques but the gamble paid rich dividends in the shape of Banbury's first morale boosting win of the season and a place in the next round of the FA Cup and an away tie at Hemel Hempstead.

United's re-shuffled forward line, with a new left-wing pair of Jim Cassidy and Keith Eatwell, and Barry Sansom appearing on the right-wing for the first time this season, looked a far livelier combination than in recent games. Eatwell's opportunism shone like a beacon and his brace of goals were just reward for a good afternoon's work.

Jim Cassidy, too, in the unaccustomed position of outside-left, linked up well with his inside partner and it was from the Scotsman's pin-point cross that Eatwell snapped up the vital second goal.

United had the gift of the season within 55 seconds of the kick-off and from that moment on they rarely looked back. With the initial movement of the game, Kevin Cornwell sent Sansom away and the winger raced around the full-back, crossed into the goalmouth where the Hitchin centre-half, Richard Day, turned the ball into his own net. The game was restarted in a stunned silence; even the two coach loads of United supporters could hardly believe their good fortune!

A goal from the outstanding move of the match in the 25<sup>th</sup> minute gave Banbury a useful two goal lead at the interval. Peter Barnes initiated the move with a 30-yard cross-field cross to Cassidy who sold a perfect dummy to his opponent, chipped the ball with deadly precision to Eatwell who headed high into the net.

United's defence slipped badly in the 55<sup>th</sup> minute when they allowed the Isthmian League side to get back into the game. Outside right Barry Sherriff fumbled his first attempt at goal but they gave him a second bite at the cherry and this time the winger hit a soft bouncing shot past United goalkeeper Gary Brown. Hitchin sensed a recovery and Brown went full stretch to stop shots from Sheriff and full back Clyde Roberts.

But Banbury again got their hooks into the game and, after several narrow escapes at the Hitchin end, Stuart Gething handled as he and Cornwell went up for the ball in front of goal. Penalty king Cornwell hit the spot-kick sweetly into the back of the net.

Six minutes from the end with Banbury threatening to rush Hitchin off their feet, Barnes swept a defence splitting ball through to Eatwell, who prodded it home despite the attention of two defenders.

Len Goulden said he was very pleased with the result adding "I thought Hitchin were a very good team for amateurs."

Hitchin Line Up: Derek Turner, Richard Barton, Clyde Roberts, John Brookes, Richard Day, Stuart Gething, Barry Sherriff, Ken Fulkes, Terry Ince, Norman Church, Brian Stockwell.

Banbury Line Up: Gary Brown, Roy Proverbs, Paddy Page, Peter Barnes, Roger Darvell, Keith Bush, Barry Sansom, Kevin Cornwell, Maurice Cook, Keith Eatwell, Jim Cassidy Sub: Tony Jacques.

Banbury lost 6-3 at Hemel Hempstead in the Second Qualifying Round.

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# TURNING THE AIRWAVES RED (... AND GOLD)!



Puritans Radio provides home and away commentaries on all of Banbury United's first team matches.

On Saturdays, our sports coverage usually starts at 13:00, before we hand over to our commentary team – headed by Dave England – at 14:30 (subject to change if kick-off isn't scheduled to start at 15:00). For some lifelong *Puritans* supporters, our commentaries are their lifeline: we have ex-pat fans who tune in from as far away as Australia, Canada, Brazil, and the USA!

You'll find all of our pre- and post-match interviews on Facebook, as well as at [www.puritansradio.com](http://www.puritansradio.com) and on Banbury United's website.

Throughout the week, Puritans Radio provides a diverse mixture of music, Community news, interviews and *What's On* announcements. Would you like us to promote *your* forthcoming event? Or even provide the Public Address for it?

Contact us at [studio@puritansradio.com](mailto:studio@puritansradio.com) – or pop over to our studio while you're here today, and have a chat with one of our team. We'd love to hear from you!

And if you fancy having a go yourself – behind the microphone, or behind the scenes – we're always keen to welcome new volunteers. [Speaking of *behind the scenes*, we'd be especially delighted to meet you if you have a vehicle that's attached to a towbar, with which you could help us to take our Public Address trailer to occasional outdoor community events.]

If today is your first sampling of Banbury United's hospitality, or the first time you have come across Puritans Radio, we hope that you have had an enjoyable experience. Please stay tuned: tell friends and family about Banbury's Community Radio Station... and invite them to join you on your next visit to watch the Club's football teams!

Up The Puritans!























Listen online: [www.puritansradio.com](http://www.puritansradio.com) – or via Alexa; or via *TuneIn* on your mobile, tablet, or PC.



Presenter and Stadium Announcer Richard Hamilton with Commentator Dave England

# Pitching In Southern League Premier Division Central LEAGUE TABLE

(last updated 26<sup>th</sup> October at 17:19 hours)

		<b>P</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>Pts</b>
	1 Kettering Town	12	8	2	2	24	9	26
	2 Stamford	13	8	1	4	19	16	25
	3 Stourbridge	13	7	1	5	21	16	22
	4 Redditch United	13	7	1	5	18	16	22
	5 Stratford Town	13	5	6	2	20	12	21
	6 Bedford Town	13	6	3	4	23	19	21
	7 Banbury United	13	6	3	4	11	8	21
	8 AFC Telford United	12	6	3	3	20	22	21
	9 Halesowen Town	12	6	2	4	15	18	20
	10 St Ives Town	13	6	1	6	18	14	19
	11 Lowestoft Town	13	6	1	6	23	26	19
	12 AFC Sudbury	13	4	5	4	24	18	17
	13 Alvechurch	12	5	2	5	11	10	17
	14 Leiston	12	4	5	3	16	16	17
	15 Barwell	13	4	4	5	17	14	16
	16 Harborough Town	13	4	4	5	15	13	16
	17 Royston Town	12	4	3	5	13	18	15
	18 Spalding United	13	5	0	8	15	25	15
	19 Bishop's Stortford	12	4	2	6	16	17	14
	20 Bromsgrove Sporting	13	3	1	9	15	23	10
	21 Hitchin Town	13	2	2	9	18	34	8
	22 Biggleswade Town	12	1	4	7	13	21	7

# STAT ATTACK

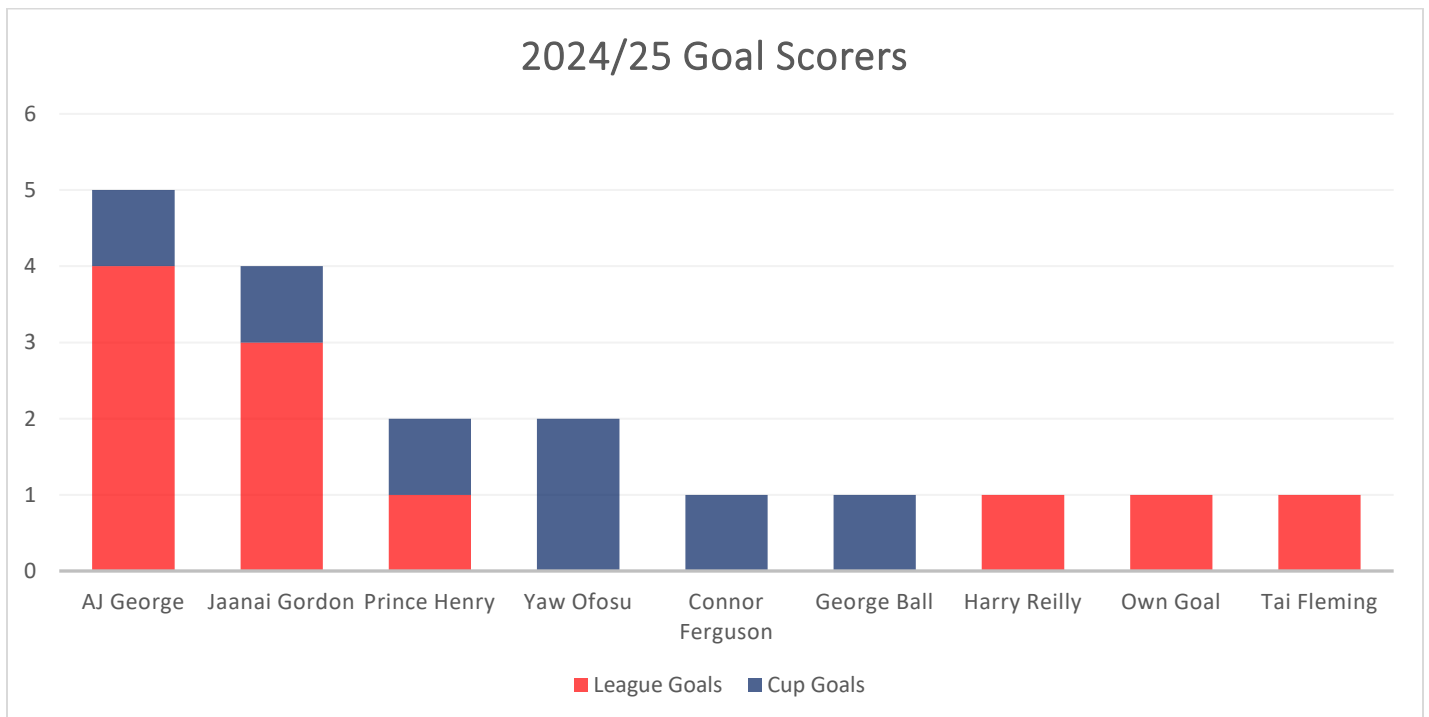
## SEASON 2024/25

### Appearances:

	League				Cup				Total				Total Career Appearances		
	Full	Used Sub	Total		Full	Used Sub	Total		Full	Used Sub	Total		Lge	Cup	Total
George Ball	11		11		3		3		14		14		11	3	14
Tommy Cartwright	3	1	4		1	2	3		4	3	7		4	3	7
Claudio Dias	4	8	12		1	1	2		5	9	14		51	12	63
Neo Dobson		2	2			1	1			3	3		2	1	3
Charlie Donaldson	2	7	9		2	2	4		4	9	13		9	4	13
Matty Donaldson	2	6	8		1	1	2		3	7	10		8	2	10
Connor Ferguson	3	6	9		1	2	3		4	8	12		9	3	12
Tai Fleming	12		12		4		4		16		16		58	7	65
A J George	12	1	13		3		3		15	1	16		17	3	20
Jaanai Gordon	6		6		1		1		7		7		34	10	44
Jack Harding	13		13		4		4		17		17		304	75	379
Prince Henry	4	4	8		3		3		7	4	11		8	3	11
Archie Hollyhead	6		6		3		3		9		9		6	3	9
Matty Ireland	2	3	5		2	1	3		4	4	8		5	3	8
Nico Jones	10		10		1		1		11		11		10	1	11
Keon Lewis-Burgess	4	1	5						4	1	5		5		5
Ramello Mitchell	2	2	4		1	1	2		3	3	6		4	2	6
Gift Mussa	7	1	8		3		3		10	1	11		8	3	11
Kgosi Ntlhe	2	1	3						2	1	3		3		3
Yaw Ofosu	13		13		3		3		16		16		13	3	16
Gedeon Okito	5	2	7		3		3		8	2	10		18	11	29
Alex Prosser	4		4						4		4		4		4
Dylan Reason	2	1	3						2	1	3		3		3
Harry Reilly	13		13		4		4		17		17		34	15	49
Zach Scott													8		8
Harvey Westwood	1	5	6			3	3		1	8	9		6	3	9

# Goal Scorers:

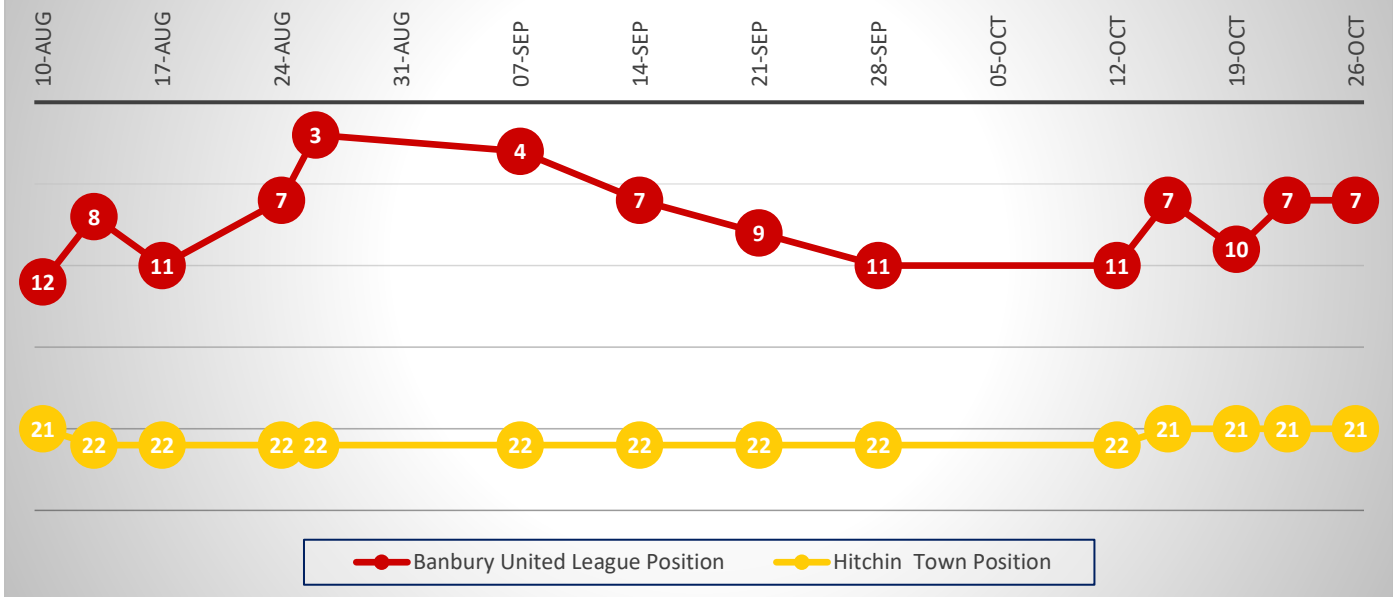
Name	Season 2024/25			Banbury United Career Totals		
	League	Cup	Total	League	Cup	Total
George Ball		1	1		1	1
Claudio Dias				6		6
Connor Ferguson		1	1		1	1
Tai Flemimg	1		1	3	1	4
AJ George	4	1	5	4	1	5
Jaanai Gordon	3	1	4	15	6	21
Jack Harding					1	1
Prince Henry	1	1	2	1	1	2
Yaw Ofosu		2	2		2	2
Harry Riley	1		1	2		2
Own Goal	1		1	1		1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>18</b>			



# Match Facts:

Date		Opponents	Result	H/T	Pos	Banbury United Goal Scorers	Opp Goal Times	Att
<b>LEAGUE GAMES</b>								
10 Aug	H	AFC Sudbury	D 1-1	1-0	12	George (42 pen)	53	440
12 Aug	A	Barwell	W 1-0	0-0	3	George (56 pen)		477
17 Aug	A	St Ives Town	L 1-2	0-0	11	George (90+7)	86, 89	274
24 Aug	H	Leiston	W 1-0	1-0	7	Henry (10)		550
26 Aug	A	Alvechurch	W 1-0	1-0	3	Own Goal (45+1)		502
07 Sep	H	Stamford	W1-0	0-0	4	Reilly (90+4)		778
10 Sep	H	Halesowen Town	L0-1	0-0	7		81	568
21 Sep	A	Royston Town	L0-1	0-1	9		24	357
24 Sep	A	Stratford Town	D1-1	0-0	9	Gordon (52)	86	864
12 Oct	H	Bromsgrove Sporting	D0-0	0-0	11			691
15 Oct	H	Bedford Town	W2-0	1-0	7	Gordon (20); George (77)		518
19 Oct	A	Spalding United	L0-2	0-1	10		30, 90+4	440
22 Oct	A	Biggleswade Town	W2-0	1-0	7	Fleming (19); Gordon (68)		150
02 Nov	H	Hitchin Town						
09 Nov	A	Bishop's Stortford						
16 Nov	H	Stourbridge						
League Goal Scorers: AJ George 4 (2 pen); Jannai Gordon 3; Prince Henry 1; Harry Reilly 1; Tai Fleming 1; Own Goal 1								
<b>CUP GAMES</b>								
31 Aug	H	Dorchester Town	W2-0	1-0	FAC1Q	Ofosu (5), Ball (79)		458
14 Sep	A	Melksham Town	D1-1	1-0	FAC2Q	George (41 pen)	53	357
17 Sep	H	Melksham Town	L2-3	1-1	FAC2QR	Henry (11) Ofosu (89)	38, 55, 87	478
05 Oct	A	Plymouth Parkway	L2-3	1-2	FAT3Q	Gordon (32) Ferguson (73)	11, 40, 50	253
Cup Goal Scorers: Yaw Ofosu 2; George Ball 1; AJ George 1 (pen), Prince Henry 1; Jaanai Gordon 1; Connor Ferguson 1								

## League Position Comparison



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# Fixtures, Results and Line Ups – Season 2024/25

Date	Home / Away	Comp	Opposition	Result	Score	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	Subs:
10-Aug	H	SLPC	AFC Sudbury	D	1 v 1	Harding	Reilly	Nithe	Fleming	Ofofu	Jones	Lewis-Burgess	Hollyhead	Westwood	George (1)	Ball	Donaldson M* Dias*
12-Aug	A	SLPC	Barwell	W	1 v 0	Harding	Reilly	Nithe	Fleming	Ofofu	Jones	Lewis-Burgess	Hollyhead	Reason	George (1)	Ball	Donaldson M* Dias*
17-Aug	A	SLPC	St Ives Town	L	1 v 2	Harding	Reilly	Okito	Fleming	Ofofu	Jones	Lewis-Burgess	Hollyhead	Reason	George (1)	Ball	Donaldson M* Dias*
24-Aug	H	SLPC	Leiston	W	1 v 0	Harding	Reilly	Okito	Mussa	Ofofu	Jones	Fleming	Hollyhead	Henry (1)	George	Ball	Donaldson M* Lewis-Burgess*
26-Aug	A	SLPC	Alchurch	W	1 v 0	Harding	Reilly	Donaldson M	Fleming	Ofofu	Jones	Dias	Lewis-Burgess	Henry	Ferguson	Ball	Ireland* Mussa*
31-Aug	H	FAC1Q	Dorchester Town	W	2 v 0	Harding	Reilly	Ireland	Fleming	Ofofu (1)	Jones	Mussa	Dias	Henry	George	Ball (1)	Donaldson M* Cartwright*
07-Sep	H	SLPC	Stamford	W	1 v 0	Harding	Fleming	Ireland	Mussa	Ofofu	Jones	Reilly (1)	Dias	Henry	George	Ball	Mitchell* Donaldson M*
10-Sep	H	SLPC	Halesowen Town	L	0 v 1	Harding	Fleming	Okito	Mussa	Ofofu	Cartwright	Reilly	Hollyhead	Mitchell	George	Ball	Ireland* Dias*
14-Sep	A	FAC2Q	Melksham Town	D	1 v 1	Harding	Fleming	Okito	Mussa	Ofofu	Ireland	Reilly	Hollyhead	Henry	George (1)	Ball	Elliott Donaldson M
17-Sep	H	FAC2Qr	Melksham Town	L	2 v 3	Harding	Fleming	Okito	Donaldson C	Ofofu (1)	Ferguson	Reilly	Hollyhead	Henry (1)	Mitchell	Ball	Ireland Cartwright
21-Sep	A	SLPC	Royston Town	L	0 v 1	Harding	Fleming	Okito	Dias	Ofofu	Ireland	Reilly	Donaldson C	Gordon	Henry	George	Mitchell* Donaldson M*
24-Sep	A	SLPC	Stratford Town	D	1 v 1	Harding	Fleming	Cartwright	Dias	Ofofu	Mitchell	Reilly	Hollyhead	Gordon (1)	Donaldson C	George	Okito* Ireland*
05-Oct	A	FAT3Q	Plymouth Parkway	L	2 v 3	Harding	Fleming	Cartwright	Mussa	Okito	Donaldson M	Reilly	Hollyhead	Gordon (1)	Donaldson C	George	Ireland* Dias*
12-Oct	H	SLPC	Bromsgrove Sporting	D	0 v 0	Harding	Reilly	Okito	Prosser	Ofofu	Jones	Cartwright	Mussa	Gordon	George	Ball	Donaldson M Dias*
15-Oct	H	SLPC	Bedford Town	W	2 v 0	Harding	Fleming	Mussa	Prosser	Ofofu	Jones	Reilly	Ferguson	Gordon (1)	George (1)	Ball	Cartwright* Okito*
19-Oct	A	SLPC	Spalding United	L	0 v 2	Harding	Fleming	Mussa	Prosser	Ofofu	Jones	Reilly	Ferguson	Gordon	George	Ball	Cartwright Nithe*
22-Oct	A	SLPC	Biggleswade Town	W	2 v 0	Harding	Fleming(1)	Mussa	Prosser	Ofofu	Jones	Reilly	Donaldson M	Gordon(1)	George	Ball	Nithe Dias*
02-Nov	H	SLPC	Hitchin Town														
09-Nov	A	SLPC	Bishop's Stortford														
16-Nov	H	SLPC	Stourbridge														
23-Nov	A	SLPC	Harborough Town														
30-Nov	H	SLPC	Lowestoft Town														
07-Dec	H	SLPC	Kettering Town														
14-Dec	A	SLPC	AFC Telford United														
21-Dec	H	SLPC	Barwell														
26-Dec	A	SLPC	Redditch United														
28-Dec	H	SLPC	St Ives Town														
01-Jan	H	SLPC	Alchurch														
04-Jan	A	SLPC	AFC Sudbury														
11-Jan	A	SLPC	Stourbridge														
18-Jan	H	SLPC	Bishop's Stortford														
25-Jan	A	SLPC	Bedford Town														
01-Feb	H	SLPC	Spalding United														
08-Feb	A	SLPC	Hitchin Town														
15-Feb	H	SLPC	Biggleswade Town														
22-Feb	A	SLPC	Lowestoft Town														
01-Mar	H	SLPC	Harborough Town														
08-Mar	A	SLPC	Halesowen Town														
15-Mar	H	SLPC	Royston Town														
22-Mar	A	SLPC	Bromsgrove Sporting														
29-Mar	H	SLPC	Stratford Town														
05-Apr	A	SLPC	Leiston														
12-Apr	H	SLPC	AFC Telford United														
19-Apr	A	SLPC	Stamford														
21-Apr	H	SLPC	Redditch United														
26-Apr	A	SLPC	Kettering Town														



**Simon HOLLYHEAD MANAGER**

George BALL  
 Tommy CARTWRIGHT  
 Claudio DIAS  
 Charlie DONALDSON  
 Matty DONALDSON  
 Logan ELLIOTT (GK)  
 Connor FERGUSON  
 Tai FLEMING  
 AJ GEORGE  
 Jaanai GORDAN  
 Jack HARDING (GK)  
 Archie HOLLYHEAD  
 Matthew IRELAND  
 Nico JONES  
 Gift MUSSA  
 Kgosietsile NTLHE  
 Yaw OFOSU (C)  
 Gedeon OKITO  
 Alex PROSSER  
 Dylan REASON (dual reg with Loughborough Students FC)  
 Harry REILLY  
 Zach SCOTT (On loan at Didcot Town)  
 Harvey WESTWOOD



**Michael JONES INTERIM MANAGER**

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 Liam BROOKS  
 Joseph CHIDYAUSIKU  
 Rio DEALL  
 Jhai DHILLON  
 Bradley DIXON-SMITH  
 Enoch EKONGO  
 Kieron FORBES  
 Lewis FRANKLIN  
 Stephen GLEESON  
 Ciaren JONES  
 William McNEILL  
 George MORRALL  
 Solomon SAMBOU  
 Dan SEARS  
 Brad SHAW (GK)  
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 Joshua STRIZOVIC (GK)  
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 Harry TITCHMARSH  
 Coree WILSON

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Orkan BEDRE

**ASSISTANT REFEREE**  
Ian CROSTON

**UPCOMING AT THE BANBURY  
PLANT HIRE STADIUM**

**Banbury United v Stourbridge**  
Saturday, 16<sup>th</sup> November | 3.00PM  
Pitching In Southern League Premier Division Central

**Banbury United v Lowestoft Town**  
Saturday, 30<sup>th</sup> November | 3.00PM  
Pitching In Southern League Premier Division Central



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