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The Official Matchday Programme of Aldershot Town Football Club // Issue 15
vs Hereford // Saturday 27 February 2021 // Kick-Off 3pm // Buildbase FA Trophy Quarter-Final

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vs **Hereford**

Saturday 27 February 2021

Kick-Off: 3pm

Buildbase FA Trophy Quarter-Final





MANAGER'S

NOTES

FIRST TEAM

MANAGER

DANNY

SEARLE

“You don’t get into the last eight of this competition if you are not capable of winning tough games...”



Good afternoon and a warm welcome to you all, wherever you might be watching or listening to this game. Our visitors today are Hereford and it's a huge match for both clubs, the Quarter Final of the FA Trophy. I'd like to welcome their manager, Josh Gowling, his players and staff to the EBB Stadium. Last Monday saw the National League North season curtailed but Hereford will be wanting to continue on with progress in this competition and will present strong opposition today.

We have had two good wins over the past seven days which has been hugely pleasing. Last Saturday, we knew that Wrexham would be coming to us in good form and that they were buoyed by the recent takeover and new investment at the Club. We were ready though, we were well-organised, we knew what we wanted to do and despite quite a few changes in the team, some forced and some unforced, we knew that we could give them a really good run for their money. Once we rode that initial storm at the start of the game, we grew in confidence, the lads settled down and we played some great football and scored some really good goals.

Maidenhead on Tuesday night looked initially as if it would be the same type of thing, but they had shown that they can come from behind in their previous fixture and that was what was so disappointing about both the manner of the way we conceded their first goal and also the timing. At half-time there was a little bit of friction between us all because the goal was too easy. We'd got away with not conceding a similar one in the Wrexham match when Mitch tipped it over the bar but Maidenhead managed to score from a similar position. It slightly marred what had been a faultless first half performance but we dug in in the second half. I felt that there were some interesting decisions which went against us in that second 45 minutes – why would Ricky Miller go down when he was one on one with the keeper? It could only be because he was fouled – but what an outstanding characteristic performance it was. I'm glad the boys got the fourth goal because a 4:2 score flattered Maidenhead, but 3:2 definitely would have.

Today is a different game entirely, a one-off cup match. You don't get into the last eight of this competition if you are not capable of winning tough games and Hereford have got that in their favour, they've had some great victories in this competition. I know they have been playing some friendly games with some local clubs so they will be fresh and game-ready and it's going to be a tough day at the office for us. If we can perform the way we have been performing, then we should be confident that we can get the result we want.

Enjoy the game,

Danny

JAMES SCARLETT

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CHAIRMAN

SHAHID AZEEM

On behalf of Aldershot Town FC, we welcome the Hereford FC directors, manager, players and officials to this afternoon's game.

Today's game is a great opportunity for both sets of fans to enjoy what should be an exciting fixture that provides a lot of history and a fantastic chance to reach the Semi-Finals of a prestigious tournament that the Buildbase FA Trophy certainly is.

Hereford are a team that we as a football club have a lot of history with, in fact the last time we played them here was for the last game of the season in 2014. We both stayed up in the National League but they had to beat us with Michael Rankine, our former player scoring the winner for our visitors that day.

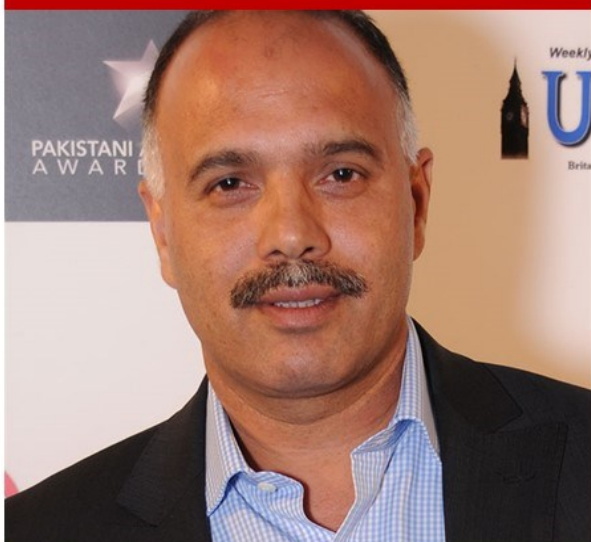
It was a great day for both sides despite the disappointing result for us at the time, but it adds something a little bit more special going into today's FA Trophy Quarter-Final.

Times have been tough for all under this pandemic and we as a football club are proud of the way we have conducted ourselves during this period and we admire the way both Aldershot Town fans and us as a country, have kept ourselves safe and healthy as we look into what looks like a light of normality over the next few months.

However, we of course respect those who have lost loved ones during this difficult time too and we wish everyone who has been living with difficult tragedies our very best, as we hope that we can put on a good performance this weekend that can offer a bit of positivity during these times.

We of course offer our additional best wishes to clubs within our lower divisions in the National League North and South, with everything going on at the moment. We hope football can return as we all know it and particularly for all those involved but especially fans of these clubs in the North and South, as things start to ease back to normal.

Looking at our own perspective on things, one



commitment we have made to our fans which has improved week-on-week is our matchday streaming service with the Shots TV Live programme and also our midweek TV Show, Shots TV Midweek Extra, that we encourage you all to tune in to as a lot of hard work goes into the production of these programmes.

The improvement is shown by the viewing figures for both shows and they continue to go from strength-to-strength. However, these numbers could always still be higher and to keep up the fantastic support that our fans have given us during these tough times, we encourage those who are watching the stream to encourage friends to tune in too as it's a fantastic production.

As a board, we are continuing to work on next year's budget as we look to be as prepared as we can be for next season, with various options being looked into at this moment in time as we are expecting a season with the exciting return of crowds and sponsors too.

But thinking about this season and the final half of this season, the board is continuing to work together and to reassure fans, we will do everything to ensure we are financially stable and competitive enough to allow us to complete the season to the best of our ability.

Please look after yourself, friends, family and colleagues too.

Shahid Azeem

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JAMIE SENDLES-WHITE

CAPTAIN

Jamie reflects on a week where the Shots achieved back to back wins in the league, scoring seven goals and rose up the table to ninth position.

The win over Wrexham last Saturday was a huge turnaround after the home defeat four days earlier. Jamie felt that the signs for this win had been appearing over recent games

I think the last few weeks or so it's been coming. All it was going to take was to be there for the full 90 minutes and we were going to end up really battering a team and it happened against Wrexham last Saturday. We were very pleased and I think it's done our confidence the world of good. Wrexham are a top team, probably one of the richest teams in the league with one of the biggest budgets, so to be able to beat them 3:0 was good. I don't think they were particularly good on the day but it shows that we can beat any team in this league when we are at it.

Academy graduate Ben Shroll made his professional debut in this game. What did Jamie make of his performance?

I was delighted for Shroll. He's been desperate to play some games and he finally got in and took the opportunity with both hands. I said to him after the game, 'Enjoy Saturday night, enjoy Sunday, don't let that be the peak of your career, make sure you work hard and make sure you play many more games in the next few years'.

The Shots defence has been impacted by suspensions and injuries over the last few weeks with Tuesday evening seeing another change, Giles Phillips in for Ben Shroll and Alfie Whittingham making a fine effort in continuing to cover at right back. Although two goals were conceded, the Shots still came away with the win in what turned out to be a difficult match after a comfortable start



I think if we are going in at 3:0 at half-time the game is over, it's done and dusted. The goal just before half-time gave them a glimmer of hope but we held out, I thought Alfie was fantastic at right back, he's played really well and I am glad to see him doing well because he's just desperate to play games. I think maybe the next couple of weeks, right back will be somewhere he can try and nail down. We did let a goal in early in the second half too and previously that might have been where we crumble and give away the 3:0 lead, but we dug in with 10 men and got the fourth goal at the end.

We have been fairly inconsistent game to game and possibly half to half in a lot of games but on Tuesday night, although we conceded, I wouldn't say we played badly, we really dug in and that's now two games where I would say we have been very consistent, we've picked up two massive wins and hopefully that will give us some momentum coming into next month's games.

But before the Shots start March's games, there's the huge matter of today's FA Trophy Quarter Final game

At the end of the day it's a cup game, so whether they've played one game all season or played 30 it is going to be a tough game, no doubt about it. If they lose, that's their season over and I am sure that will be the carrot for them to give it their all and I am sure it will be a difficult game today. We've got to make sure we stick to what we've been doing in the last few games, be resilient and be professional. We are hopeful if we do that we'll be able to pick up a positive



SHOTS NEWS & VIEWS

WORDS BY VICTORIA ROGERS

Wow, what a week of football that was, two wins, six points gained and seven goals scored including a hat-trick from Shots vice captain, Josh Rees. Stunning stuff. If anyone had suggested that might be the case moments after the final whistle which followed the 3:1 loss to Solihull Moors 11 days ago we most of us would have struggled to believe that we would be seeing these kind of results after a defeat where the players looked jaded and tired. But believe it we must as Danny Searle, Anwar Uddin and the players pulled two massive irons from the fire in the next two games- a 3:0 home win over six-game-unbeaten Wrexham last Saturday and then a 4:2 victory away to Maidenhead on Tuesday evening with the Shots racing into a 3:0 lead, being pegged back to 3:2 by the start of the second half, going down to 10 men but still triumphing 4:2 with a further goal deep into injury time. Edge of the seat viewing as manager Danny Searle described it.

It was brilliant to see Ricky Miller open the scoring and how pleased his team mates were for him, although they were just as delighted with Josh Rees' first-ever professional hat-trick. There was resilience from the team to protect the 3:2 lead when they went down to 10 men and the fourth goal was a cherry on the top - well done to the players, who without their determination we might have been seeing a 3:3 draw instead of the win.

These results have seen us move to ninth in the table with just over half the season played. We now know that the plan is for the National League to complete the season although this still leaves the small matter of funding to be addressed as with the

recently announced government roadmap, there's practically no chance of supporters getting back into grounds this season and with all of the financial support that brings.

That's why today is so important for both clubs. Hereford's league season may be ended, the NLS and NLN having had their campaigns curtailed on Monday, (subject to FA approval and with some clubs still pushing to finish) but the Trophy is an FA competition and under different laws. Indeed it would be catastrophic for the competition if teams pulled out, only four of the eight being National League clubs. With the ties the way they are, it would see byes for Aldershot and Notts County, the third tie between Darlington and Hornchurch gone completely with only Woking and Torquay playing a quarter-final match. It would also then mean only one semi-final, with one club getting a bye to the final. Unthinkable for the integrity of the competition and thankfully, not a scenario we are faced with, all four ties currently scheduled to go ahead.

The integrity of the competition is a major factor but the other one, far more mundane but of great interest to the pragmatists amongst us all is money - £7,500 for the winners of today's match with the promise of more with progress to the semi-final, along with the monies already won. With everything the way that it is at the moment, the absence of supporters, any funding stream is a potential lifeline and thus far the Shots have been grasping it with both hands. Let's hope today sees that carry on - finance coupled with the promise of a shiny trophy, who wouldn't want that?

In closing, may I say how pleased I am to be playing Hereford today, the first match against the Bulls since 2014. That day and its subsequent events are detailed elsewhere in this programme but I will mention briefly here the time I was at my cousin's wedding in Ross-on-Wye in 2008. We were sat with the brother of the groom, a big Hereford fan, who was keen for us to know that it should never have been a red card for their player in the second leg of the 2004 play-off semi-final, a tie which the Shots went through to the final on penalties. In the spirit of non-league though, he also spent the whole afternoon on his phone trying to find out the result from the FA Trophy semi-final match tie that the Shots were playing in (if he was pleased that we were knocked out, he never showed it). I am delighted for the Bulls and supporters like that man, that they have made such progress since their dissolution in December 2014, it's just such a shame that they, like us, can't have supporters here today, to watch in person what should be a great game.



IAN NIBLETT

A warm welcome to Bulls' photographer, Stephen Niblett, from Aldershot Town's man behind the lens, Ian Morsman. Stephen has been covering the on pitch action at Edgar Street for many years and is pictured here at The EBB Stadium back in 2014, celebrating what was considered then as Hereford's escape from relegation.



MATCH ACTION

Saturday 20 February
Vanarama National League
Kick-Off 3pm

The Shots 3

Nouble 26', 47', Anderson 68'

Wrexham 0

The EBB Stadium



The Shots: Walker, Colombie, Sendles-White, Shroll, Whittingham, Rees (Booked), Miller (Bettamer 74'), Rowe, Anderson, Kandi (Panayiotou 57') (Booked), Nouble (Edser 78') **Subs:** Hall, Bettamer, Panayiotou, Gillela, Edser



Wrexham: Dibble, Hall-Johnson (Booked) (Durrell 65'), Reckord (Booked), Young, Carrington, Horsfield (Jarvis 65'), Angus, Kelleher, French, Davies (Ponticelli 80'), Thomas **Subs:** Durrell, Ponticelli, Redmond, Jarvis, Rutherford



“ POST-MATCH THOUGHTS ”

DANNY SEARLE

‘We know what qualities we’ve got in the dressing room and how hard these lads work so I was confident we’d put a performance in today... When players have been asked to step up and perform they always have, and that’s a credit to the mentality in the dressing room. Everyone on the pitch today was outstanding.’

DEAN KEATES

‘We started really well but you can’t legislate for the mistake, Christian’s error cost us and after that we got a little bit jittery. We still had chances after that but we didn’t take them.’



PLAYER KIT S



HOME:
Andy Wilde
AWAY:
Shots Away Travel

Mitch Walker



HOME:
Muhammed Ali
AWAY:
Andy Wilde

Mo Bettamer



HOME:
AWAY:

Dinesh Gillela



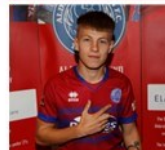
HOME & AWAY:
Roger Niblett

George Fowler



HOME:
Andrew King
AWAY:
Hussayn Awais-Ali

Chike Kandi



HOME & AWAY:
Sunnyside
Removals

Reece Wylie



HOME:
Martin & Adam Jessop
AWAY:
For Gillobean

Alex Finney



HOME:
Heather Nicklinson
AWAY:
SCSJ Consulting

Harrison Panayiotou



HOME & AWAY:
Richard, Julie &
Bradley Layton

Toby Edser



HOME & AWAY:
The Three Grumpy Gits

Jamie Sendles-White



HOME:
The Blair Family
AWAY:
Bobby Proudlock

Alfie Whittingham



HOME & AWAY:
O'Neill & Brennan

Ben Shroll



HOME:
SCSJ Consulting
AWAY:
Adrian Butt

Kodi Lyons-Foster



HOME & AWAY:
Richard, Julie &
Bradley Layton

Ryan Hall



HOME:
AWAY:

Giles Phillips



HOME & AWAY:
Ian White

James Rowe



HOME:
Bobby Proudlock
AWAY:
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AWAY:
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MATCH ACTION

Tuesday 23 February
Vanarama National League
Kick-Off 7pm

Maidenhead United 2
Orsi-Dadomo 43' 50'

The Shots 4
Miller 6', Rees 27' 39' 90+5'

York Road



Maidenhead United: Ashby-Hammond, Massey, Wells, Comley (Kelly 73'), Sheckleford (Booked), (Ofori-Twumasi 60') (Booked), Parry, Coley (Booked), Ince, Upward (Keetch 77'), Orsi-Dadomo, Blissett **Subs:** Wiltshire, Keetch, Ofori-Twumasi, Smith, Kelly



The Shots: Walker, Colombie (Booked, Sent-Off), Sendles-White, Phillips, Whittingham, Rowe, Rees, Anderson, Miller (Lyons-Foster 75'), Kandi (Edser 63'), Nouble (Bettamer 87') **Subs:** Hall, Lyons-Foster, Bettamer, Panayiotou, Edser



“ POST-MATCH THOUGHTS ”

DANNY SEARLE

'We certainly made a spectacle for the people tuning in, sitting on the edge of their seats. You're thinking how good we were in the first half and then to concede in the manner we did before half-time gave them a little lift... we come out again and they hit a great free kick and you think it's going to be one of those nights... We're always confident we can score goals, we create so many chances and we've got great energy going forward, we've got very good players technically and from a running perspective. When you've got midfielders who can finish the way Josh can you are always going to score goals.'

RYAN PETERS

'Bad day at the office today on every front and left ourselves far too much to do. Credit where it is due, Aldershot Town matched us and were better than us for large spells. Thank you to all that tuned in, we will be better.'



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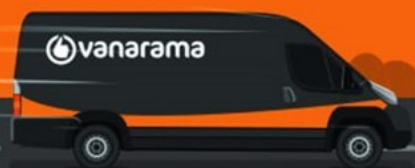
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SHOTS IN FOCUS JOEL NOUBLE



Full Name: Joel Jonathan Nouble

Date and place of birth: 19/01/96, Deptford

Height: 6'5"

Married: No

Nickname: Noubz

Car: A-Class Mercedes

Previous clubs: Chelsea, Dagenham and Redbridge, Thurrock, Haringey Borough, Concord Rangers

Team you supported as a boy: Manchester United

Favourite current player: Lionel Messi

Most difficult opponent: Lucas Piazon, currently plays for Braga in Portugal.

Most memorable match: FA Cup 1st round v AFC Wimbledon

Biggest disappointment: Sustaining a knee injury in my pro-year

Football honours: Players' Player of the Year and top scorer with Haringey in 2018/19

Favourite other sports: Basketball

Favourite other sportsmen/women: Steph Curry, American basketball player

Hobbies: Reading

Favourite TV show: Fresh Prince of Bel Air

Favourite musicians: Drake

Miscellaneous likes: Tennis

Miscellaneous dislikes: Chocolate

Best country visited: Spain

Favourite food: Pizza

Favourite restaurant: Nando's

Favourite drink: Apple juice

Biggest drag in football: Pre-season, particularly running!

If you weren't a footballer what do you think you'd be: A business manager

Which person in the world would you most like to meet: LeBron James

If given £1million what would be the first thing you would buy: Food!



Steven Goddard

Will Writer, Estate Planning Consultant and life-long SHOTS supporter.

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ALDERSHOT TOWN SUPPORTERS CLUB

Good afternoon everyone,

So today's quarter-final day in the FA Trophy and we welcome Hereford FC to the EBB.

We were away on Tuesday night against Maidenhead United and won a 4-2 thriller.

We will be doing the next members' draw winner on 1 March so if you'd like to be included in this, join the Supporters' Club by emailing us at atfc.sup@yahoo.com or join on the website at just £15 for over 18s and £10 18 and under for new members, which includes an Official Supporters Club scarf. Forms are also available in the Club Shop. There are many benefits including early tickets once supporters are allowed back into the ground. Even if you don't personally have your card/scarf you are included in draws.

Our Supporters Club badges are available to purchase at the Club Shop or our website at just £4 (+post & packing) if required. Also hoodies will be able from the website soon (there will be a few weeks' wait) as they are made to order.

Imagine your normal match day routine, come through the turnstiles, maybe get a 50/50 ticket and/or a golden goal ticket. Why not change this to In with a Shot as you know there are winners every week and money goes to the club and you the fans? It's a weekly draw, either a £2 game or a £5 game. So far the money raised for the club is over £9,000 and we have given out over £10,000 to us, the fans. Pretty good for something which has only been going for just over a year. To do this, just email the Supporters Club at atfc.supclub@yahoo.com or contact Mark Butler at the Club mark.butler@theshots.co.uk

The Midweek Youtube Show that the Club have now started is such a laugh, and a good mix of interviews and fun. Nice to see that they have included the rehab of some of the players that have been out for a while, so we as fans can see their progress. As for the Mastermind, some of those questions!!!

Remember we are also on Instagram [atfc_supporters_club](https://www.instagram.com/atfc_supporters_club)

Hope you enjoy the game.

Ray Hedgman - Supporters Club Chairman

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ON THE OUTSIDE LOOKING IN



In all the years I've been providing notes for an Aldershot matchday programme (37 years and counting!) these are possibly the strangest I have had to pen.

It is a touch of sadness really. The thought of Hereford visiting the EBB Stadium for a quarter-final of the FA Trophy would, under normal circumstances, set the pulse racing. There was always a rivalry with Hereford from our Football League days that carried through to the rebirth of football in Aldershot in 1992 (when we re-commenced rivalries in 2003). Similar clubs, similar support base with a noticeable passion for their club. And now, of course, a similar story as Hereford was re-born in 2014 from the ashes of Hereford United having, ironically, originally survived relegation on the last day of the 2013-14 season here at Aldershot amongst emotional scenes. 90 years of history added to 66 years of Aldershot FC. Two supporter bases who have been through the mill and experienced the worst of the worst.

Let's face it- I would have been expecting a 3,500 plus attendance this afternoon. We all know the story of Aldershot never reaching Wembley in either guise; at least our opponents this afternoon did experience that in 2016, reaching the FA Vase Final.

However the sadness is because, as the rule currently stands, whichever clubs reach the final on 10 May their fans won't be able to attend. Imagine that- Aldershot reaching Wembley for the first time in our history and not being able to attend in person. It may not be us, it may not be Hereford but I'm not sure how I would deal with it if it was Aldershot because it has been THAT remaining dream for so many of us.

I can't dress it up in any way, shape or form but without the supporters today or in the future it just cannot be the same. There is a large piece of the jigsaw outstanding and there would always be a gaping hole in the story.

Loyal former Aldershot stalwart Colin Fielder once scored the winner for Woking in the last minute of extra time at the Wembley FA Trophy Final v Kidderminster in 1995. Nearly 18,000 fans attended. It wouldn't have been the same if Colin had celebrated in an empty stadium. For the fans it wouldn't have been the same either. That "Where were you when..." moment. "Actually, I was stuck in front of the television at home watching the stream".

From a football club point of view it is about professionalism though. From the stage National League clubs enter through to winning the final, there is just short of £100,000 available. That is not to be sniffed at and, in the current climate, a huge amount for a club of our stature. I am sure that has been discussed internally at both clubs, as indeed it should be.

Also from a club perspective the FA Trophy has always been a sticky competition for us. We blew the semi-finals in 2004 (Hednesford) and 2008 (Ebbsfleet) and the FA Vase quarter-final of 1994 still hits a raw nerve. We won't start on Havant and Waterlooville!

Fans of all the quarter finalists up and down the country this afternoon will be cheering their respective teams via their own TV outlet, come 3pm. It's just a shame that, as it currently stands, supporters of whoever reach the Final will be doing the same.

Words by Graham Brookland





RICKY

MILLER

THE BIG INTERVIEW

New Year's Eve is normally a time of parties and gatherings but New Year 2020 was a very different affair, everybody at home due to the current situation. But for Shots supporters, there was one very special thing that happened at midnight on 31 December that shone a bright light into their lives – after months of frantic speculation and rumour, former Dover, Peterborough, Luton and Port Vale striker Ricky Miller was announced as an Aldershot Town player.

It had been a long time coming for Ricky, who hadn't kicked a ball in professional football for 18 months, so how did the process of him signing for the Club come about?

'It was from Ross White (Academy Lead Professional Phase Coach). The Club was trying to sign me when Gary Waddock was there, every window Ross White was in my ear but it just didn't materialise. I was at Port Vale and I wanted to prove a point up there. It didn't go as well as I might have hoped although I still scored a couple of crucial goals in helping keep them up. So because I had a point to prove there I stayed, although I was very close to coming and signing for Aldershot then. Port Vale said I could go, Aldershot wanted me but I decided to stay and fight for my place.

'Then I was out of football for a while and when I decided I wanted to come back I got hold of Ross. He had been phoning me all the time during that period saying, 'Oh, are you ready to come back?' and I kept saying, 'I don't know, give me till January, give me till the next window, I'm just having a break'. I kept buying myself some time. But Ross was very persistent and finally I started running again and I felt in good shape and I said to Ross, 'Are you still interested?' He said yes and spoke to Danny and the rest is history.'

Eighteen months is a long time to be away from football, did Ricky feel that he needed that break?

'Very much. I was blaming football and the impact that football had on me in my life. It was like a defence mechanism I suppose, blaming football for that and using it to get over that stage in my life. Although football was my passion and I loved it, I blamed football for the position I was in. I needed that break to realise that one, football wasn't my problem and two, just how much I loved it and missed it.'

And how did he go about motivating himself to get back into the right physical and mental shape to play football again?

'The PFA were brilliant with me. I had pushed them away, I thought that they were all part of the conspiracy, part of the problem. But when I had pushed everyone away and I realised that the problem was still there, I had to do some soul-searching. Then the PFA were always there willing to help me and they put me in contact with a few different counsellors and therapists. They don't do it for you, they get you to open up and realise what sort of things have been holding you back. The PFA really helped me to try and understand what and why I was going through some of the stuff I was going through.

'And Ross passed me onto Danny and me and Danny spent a lot of time communicating and he was a shoulder on which to express how I was feeling, in a football way. That was really beneficial as well.'

It's been a difficult time for many people over the past year with one positive, a far greater awareness of mental health. Does Ricky feel that good mental health is important?



'100%. Obviously it's been a depressing time for everyone and people have had a lot of time on their hands so it's probably best that you can keep yourself busy, things like that. But with lockdown you can't keep yourself busy enough and if you do have any mental health problems it comes to fruition, so it's been a good time to reflect and reassess your life and start enjoying the little things in life.'

In a long career, there have been many people who have passed through Ricky's footballing life. Who does he remember as having had a big influence on him?

'When I first started out it was Graham Baker at Woking, he saw the potential in me – he had played at the Nou Camp, he'd played for Southampton; and an ex player called Alan Biley who used to have really mad hair, he is one of the record goal scorers for Portsmouth along with having played for Cambridge, Derby and Brighton and Hove Albion, he helped me too. Also I would say the Dover manager, Chris Kinnear, he helped me a lot because he was a school teacher for naughty kids, for tearaways who didn't quite fit in. He understood me a little bit and that gave me the platform and the confidence to express myself on the pitch. And Danny now, obviously, we've been very honest with each other and he's helped me quite a lot.'

Shots supporters will mainly remember Ricky as a high-scoring striker at Dover. What does he remember of matches he's played in against Aldershot Town? One match that sticks out is the match between the two teams in April 2017 as they both pushed for the play-offs, a 1:0 win for the Shots.

'It was a massive game for both teams, Dover were above Aldershot and it was only a few games left and if we had won that we would have been five points clear. Shots had to win, which they did, 1:0, and you made the play-offs on the last day of the season on goal difference. I did score a couple of goals against Aldershot while I was at Dover!'

And now he's here at Aldershot Town, what does Ricky think is special about playing for the Shots? A key part for him is the supporters.

'On Twitter they have every window always been calling my name and wanting to sign me, so it felt like I was already an Aldershot player by the time I got here. I'm a local boy, my mum moved up here when I was 16 with my stepdad who is an Aldershot lad. A few of my friends go to games and their families too - it just made sense. I feel like I've found a little second home, so it's good. I want to get my sharpness back and get some goals and it's coming in the right direction because that's what it's all about.'

'It's very much a family club, everyone who is there is Aldershot through and through; it's a very nice club, very friendly club. And it's a sleeping giant, it's massive in this league. If we could start winning and putting in some impressive performances like we did on Saturday, obviously the fans aren't allowed in at the moment but when they do come in the East Bank will be rocking and hopefully we can give them some entertaining football to come in to cheer. If we can start to wake up this little sleeping giant it will all come to bear.'

Ricky mentions last Saturday's impressive performance, the win over Wrexham and Tuesday evening saw him opening the scoring in Shots' 4:2 away win at Maidenhead. With over 100 career goals already, what does he feel are the key elements to goal scoring?

'Half of it is natural, then the other half is the confidence and hard work. The hard work you do away from the football club, your diet, your extra gym sessions, that gives you the confidence to go out there and do what you do naturally. It's that hunger and desire, I'm 31 years old, I could just enjoy a couple of years but I'm a man on a mission! I still want to prove myself, I've still got aspirations and I want to win every game. If we can start to put some wins together and get on a little roll this season then that will set us up next season for a great year.'

With two excellent league wins behind them, the Shots now face Hereford today in the FA Trophy. Is this competition important to Ricky? It would appear that it most definitely is.

'I've never actually been to Wembley, we were ten minutes away from it in the play-offs (with Dover) and Dover got to the semi-finals a few time in the Trophy and lost to a team below us. So today it's not going to be an easy game and if we can get through that, then the semi-final, that's a final in itself. Three quarters of this current changing room haven't been to Wembley, me included. Then you've got people like Josh Rees who has and he is saying how good it was and that he wants to get there again. It's a massive chance for us and Aldershot have never been to Wembley, so we've got a chance to have our little slice of history for Aldershot Town and that means the world to me.'

And what about the rest of the season, what does Ricky hope for, both for the Club and for himself?

'I'd like to get into double figures goal wise and to reach the FA Trophy final and Wembley. I'd also like to get in the play-offs. We've got just under half a season left, if we can start having a bit of belief and start believing in ourselves and putting a sequence of three games together – win three in a row and we would be in the play-off places. I don't want to put too much pressure on us, we've got a great chance, we're in a great position to go on a little run. There's always a couple of teams who do that and end up coming late to the party so hopefully that can be us and if not, we need to get in that top ten and to set the platform for next season to really kick on.'

Words by Victoria Rogers







RICKY
MILLER 30

MATCH SPONSOR

Last of the Summer Wine

Last of the Summer Wine, made up of Simon Regan, Brian Armstrong, Richard Dowding and Norman Gray, have been supporting The Shots for over 150 years between us.

Our friendship started around the year 2000 when we were season ticket holders in the North Stand. This friendship has developed and now includes our families and friends. If you see one of us the others will not be far away.

About four seasons ago we moved from the North Stand to the Patrons Lounge (it's the prawn sandwiches) and seats in the Directors Box.

Last of the Summer Wine travel to most away games and for a number of seasons travelled with the Shots Away Travel Group but now either with the Shots Trust or by car.

We are active in supporting the Shots Sportsmans' Dinner night and the Summer Party and we are also Commercial manager Mark Butler's sponsor.

We are very proud and privileged to be sponsoring today's match between Aldershot Town and Hereford



BALL SPONSOR

I started following the Shots at about four years old when my dad, Bernard Herridge, a life-long Shots supporter, took me to my first game. I became an avid Aldershot Town supporter from that day on. Sadly my father died when I was 12 but I continued to be a regular at Aldershot, going with my grandad and uncle. When I passed my driving test at 17 I was a regular with a band of friends at home and away games following the successful promotion seasons, and cheering on the likes of Jason Chewins and Mark Butler who have since become friends. My mother, Lesley Herridge, also became a regular volunteer in the match hospitality, helping out serving teas and coffees to directors and club officials and making some close friendships. She has since moved away from Aldershot but still asks for regular updates on the team and league positions.

I can now be found on match days on the East Bank, and try to help the Club where I can with odd bits of sponsorship. This Cub has such a great band of supporters who have been through so many highs and lows, but with everyone behind the team this club will progress again. Up the Shots!

Paul Herridge



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Thank you to everyone who has sponsored a pitch square, your support means so much to the Club.
And now you are all a part of the fantastic EBB Stadium hallowed turf!

THE ACADEMY

PROFILE



Name: Jack

Age Group: U-16

Playing Position: Centre midfield/Centre attacking
midfield

When did you join the Aldershot Town Academy?

19/20 season

When did you first start playing football?

When I started to walk. I joined my first team when I
was four years old.

What team do you support?

Ipswich Town

What type of player are you?

I would describe myself as a team player who likes to
get on the ball and make play happen. I am a creative

player who likes to go forward and be clever on the
ball and create as many chances as possible.

Who is your favourite footballer?

My favourite football player is between Neymar and
Kevin De Bruyne. Neymar because of the way he
expresses himself on the pitch and De Bruyne for his
creative passing and vision.

Describe the best goal you have scored?

The best goal I have scored has got to be my free kick
against QPR this season. Edge of the 18-yard box,
dipped over the wall into the top left.

**What do you want to achieve this season with the
Academy?**

As a team I would like to win as many games as
possible playing with the Club's philosophy, and as an
individual I would like to continue to develop my
confidence in my ability and express myself on the
pitch.

What are your hopes for your footballing-future?

My hopes for the future is to learn as much as possible
through the U-18s through to U-23s and hopefully
sign my professional contract at the Club and make my
debut for the first team. I aspire to make it to the top
of football and play at the best standard I can.

**If you had any advice for an up and coming academy
player, what would it be?**

If I could give any advice it would be to enjoy yourself
as much as possible, put in the hard work, respect
your coaches and team mates and express yourself on
the pitch.

THE 12TH MAN

Name: Andy Wilde

Date and place of birth: The Past

Height: Not as tall as I was

Biggest disappointment: See previous answer

Nickname: Beast

Favourite food: Curry

Favourite musicians: Tubeway Army

Favourite daughter: Elanor

Favourite people to watch the Shots with: Wilf and Sid

First Shots match attended: Shots 2:1 Salisbury City on 5th of April 2008

Favourite place: North Stand East Bank end

Miscellaneous comments: Thanks to everyone involved at the club for keeping going during these challenging times. My special thanks go to Mark Butler for asking me to be The 12th Man.

I have my shin pads on just in case...

Photo of Andy by Shaun Jackson



Have you ever felt envious of the match day mascots, running out with the team, having their photo in the programme? Well envy no more! You might not want to dress up in full Shots kit but maybe you'd like to be Aldershot Town's 12th Man, just like Andy? If you would, then contact Shots' Commercial Manager Mark Butler on Mark.Butler@theshots.co.uk and he'll take you through the details. It's a great way to support the Club and give you, the supporter, a different way of being involved with the Club. Get in touch now and it could be your photo on this page for the next home game.

Another way of helping the Club is to be a Programme Sponsor. Thank you to our inaugural sponsors, Tim Copp, Joe Copp and John Marchment whose names are on the front cover of today's edition. Again, if you'd like to be a programme sponsor, contact Mark Butler on the email address above and he can help you out.

WE'VE MET BEFORE

The history of matches between clubs from the city of Hereford and the town of Aldershot first started when Hereford United (founded 1924) and Aldershot FC (founded 1926) met in Division Four in The Bulls' very first season in the Football League, the 1972-73 campaign. Both teams were promoted at the end of that season, in second and fourth place respectively and went on to play each other on many occasions over the following 20 or so years, until the Shots' demise in March 1992 and their subsequent reformation in the lower reaches of non-league football.

Hereford United were relegated themselves to non-league football in 1997 and it was in the Conference that the two teams were to finally meet again for the first time in over 11 years when they faced up in non-league's top flight in the 2003-04 season. The Shots lost both matches in the league but when they met in the semi-finals of the play-offs it was a different story. Despite Hereford ending the season a massive 21 points ahead of the Shots, the two play-off legs were extremely tight affairs – a 1:1 draw here at the EBB and a goalless game at Edgar Street led to extra-time and penalties, the Shots eventually triumphing 4:2, leading to huge celebrations from management, directors, fans and players.

Aldershot Town were defeated in the play-off final, losing on penalties to Shrewsbury but two years later Hereford fought their way through to the play-off final and won promotion back to the Football League, defeating Halifax Town 3:2. A further two years and the Shots were back in the Football League themselves, champions of the Blue Square League but both clubs were to suffer tough times again and by 2013, both The Shots and The Bulls were back in non-league football.





The 2013-14 season was an incredibly difficult one for both clubs, the Shots trying to avoid relegation after having had 10 points deducted for going in to administration in the close season and Hereford experiencing all kinds of financial issues. The two teams met on the final day of the season, Aldershot Town having done enough to keep themselves up while Hereford needed to better Chester's result to remain in the Conference themselves. On a hot afternoon, in a game attended by over 3,500 supporters, the 700-odd Hereford supporters anxiously checking the score in the Chester match on a minute-by-minute basis, The Bulls were triumphant, winning 2:1 and making themselves safe, the winning goal coming from former Shots man, Michael Rankine.

Sadly the financial chaos at Edgar Street was too strong for even this team of gusty fans and players. Hereford United was expelled from the Conference in December 2014. A phoenix club though, Hereford FC, was set up and played its first campaign in 2015-16, achieving its most recent promotion to the National League North in 2018. Almost full circle.

And now we meet again today, in an FA Trophy quarter-final, a match as big as those that have gone before. By the end of today's game there will be one set of happy players on the pitch, just like all those pictured here. Neither club could be put down by its difficulties, both clubs continue to look forwards, not back. Aldershot Town and Hereford FC – two proud phoenix clubs competing for one FA Trophy semi-final place.





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INTRODUCING HEREFORD



HISTORY

We welcome Hereford FC to the EBB Stadium for this afternoon's FA Trophy Quarter Final tie. With the recent abandonment of the National League North, the FA Trophy is Hereford's only focus and they are fully aware, defeat this afternoon will end their season. Prior to the season being stopped Hereford FC found themselves in 12th place in the National League North table. The National League North table, is hard to gauge as a representative table due to many clubs having various games in hand. Hereford's league record showed five wins, five draws and three defeats. Hereford's last game before the season was halted saw them defeat Brackley, 2-0. Hereford have only played four games in 2021, with two of them being National League North games and the other two being FA Trophy ties.

Josh Gowing's side lined up as followed for the Brackley game:

20 Brandon Hall, 2 Jared Hodgkiss, 3 Luke Haines. 4 Ben Pollock, 6 Jamie Grimes, 7 Chris Camwell, 8 Joey Butlin, 10 Tom Owen-Evans, 11 Kyle Finn, 17 Ryan Finn, 25 Michael Bakare

Captain Jared Hodgkiss has played for Macclesfield, Forest Green and Kidderminster amongst others. Michael Bakare, was a new signing for Hereford and joined the club just before the Brackley game. Bakare scored on his debut against Brackley. Ryan McLean was another recent signing, who signed on loan from Newcastle Town just before the Brackley game. The Hereford FC board have pledged that it is their intention to try and keep the team together, following the recent abandonment of the National League North. In a statement, club chairman Rob Crawford said, "The board have been impressed with the standard and quality of football this season. We are working closely with the whole squad to keep the team together over the coming months, to press on next season and pick off where we left off."

Hereford's path to the FA Trophy Quarter Final, started with a 3-0 win at Edgar Street against St Neots Town in Round Two of the competition. The Third Round pitted Hereford against Nantwich Town, in a game which saw them win 1-0. The Fourth Round tie at Stamford AFC, saw Hereford win 2-0 through a Tom Owens-Evans brace, despite Hereford being down to nine men. The reward was a fifth round tie against Leamington, which Hereford FC won 1-0 to set up this afternoon's Quarter Final tie.

Wrexham This afternoon's game is the first time Hereford and The Shots have played each other since Hereford's re-formation. In previous encounters between The Shots and Hereford United, Hereford have 24 wins, The Shots have 15 wins and there have been 10 draws. The last time Aldershot and Hereford teams played each other there was tension and drama a-plenty. The game was the final match of the 2013/14 National League season. This was the season where Luton Town won promotion back to the Football League and a striker who has since commanded over £21,000,000 in transfer fees since topped the scoring charts, Andre Gray with 30 league goals. Both teams went into the final game of the season with the possibility of relegation being a genuine concern for Hereford. The Shots had a far superior goal difference and in essence had the equivalent of a point difference on Hereford and Chester, if needed. Chester were playing Salisbury at the Deva Stadium in a game that also had direct impact on the destination of the relegation places. The game at the EBB saw the visitors taking the lead, with Sam Smith putting Peter Beadle's Hereford ahead. At The Deva Stadium it was 1-1 at half-time with Danny Carlton and Charlie Sheringham exchanging strikes. Towards the end of the games, the pendulum swung once again. At The EBB, Manny Oyeleke equalised for The Shots and at that point with Hereford drawing and Chester 2-1 up, it looked like Hereford would be relegated. The final few minutes saw football deliver in its beautiful and unpredictable way, firstly Jamie White scored an 86th minute equaliser at Chester, meaning Hereford needed to beat The Shots to stay up. Former Shot Michael Rankine's 88th minute winner caused pandemonium in the Hereford end, as The Bulls looked to have avoided relegation in the most dramatic of styles on goal difference, The Shots also were able to stay in the National League due to their far superior goal difference, despite being on the same amount of points as Hereford and Chester. Regardless though of what happened on the pitch, Hereford were demoted to the Southern League for the 2014/15 season due to financial irregularities and were wound up in December of 2014.

Words by Dan Blake



THE BOSS

JOSH GOWLING

After joining Hereford FC as a player in December 2018, Josh took up the reins as the Bulls interim-manager a little over a year later. Impressing during a short-spell alongside assistant Steve Burr, the experienced central defender was offered the role permanently in the summer of 2020.

He has a psychology degree and a UEFA B licence, in addition to a plethora of other coaching badges and qualifications, as he begins his first season as a club manager. Gowling is excited by the opportunity here at Edgar Street, and is intent on moving the club forward, progressing on a sustainable basis. It is a challenge which he is relishing.

Coventry born Josh, began his playing career at West Bromwich Albion prior to a year with Herfølge Boldklub in Denmark. Upon returning to the UK he signed for Bournemouth where he established himself in the Football League.

After three seasons on the south-coast he had a short spell at Carlisle before moving on loan to Edgar Street during the 2008/2009 season. Josh chalked up 56 appearances for Gillingham before a year at Lincoln saw him feature in his 250th first team game.

He then moved to Kidderminster on deadline day in August 2012 and enjoyed a very successful time at the Harriers first becoming captain in 2014, before taking up a player-coach role too. Josh was selected for the Conference Team of the Year in the 2012-2013 season.

In March 2015 he linked up with Grimsby Town, initially on loan, and played in the Mariners 3-1 victory over Forest Green Rovers in the 2016 National League play-off final at Wembley. His performances gained him a place in the 2015-2016 National League Team of the Year. After a season with Torquay United, and a loan spell at Alfreton, he then joined Hereford, and has over 500 first team appearances under his belt.





BRANDON HALL

Former England C international goalkeeper Brandon Hall joined the Bulls in May 2019 on a two-year contract following his departure from Kidderminster Harriers.

The London-born 'keeper began his career as a trainee with Charlton Athletic where he gained first team experience on loan with Whitstable Town before a brief spell in Scotland with St Mirren.

After returning south of the border, Hall spent the 2012/2013 season with Hayes and Yeading before making 60 league appearances in three seasons for Ebbsfleet United.

The 27-year old's fine form for The Fleet caught the eye of England C

manager Paul Fairclough who rewarded the 6ft 1in keeper with the first of four caps against Estonia's U-23 side in November 2014.

After a single season with Woking, Hall moved to Kidderminster in 2017 where he made an instant impact, winning the Club's Player of the Year award after an impressive first campaign.

Hall made 88 appearances for the Harriers in his two seasons at Aggborough before making the switch to Edgar Street.

Hall had an impressive maiden campaign for the Bulls; keeping 12 clean sheets in 35 games in all competitions.



JAMIE GRIMES

An extremely experienced central defender, Jamie joined the Bulls from National League South side Ebbsfleet United.

The 29-year-old began his career in youth football with Leicester City and Swansea City prior to gaining first team opportunities at Forest Green Rovers, Redditch United and Bedford Town. However, he was to make his breakthrough at Kidderminster Harriers in 2013 where he chalked up 61 appearances in two years.

A successful two-year spell at Dover Athletic ended with a transfer to Football League side Cheltenham Town where he made 43 appearances before linking up with Macclesfield Town.

The Hereford boss Josh Gowling said, "He is strong, athletic and will balance the team out well, due to being a left-footed centre back. He is the ultimate professional and will expect the best from his team mates. I am delighted to sign him and he will be a big part of the culture at this Football Club."



BEN POLLOCK

The industrious central midfielder had successful youth spells at Middlesbrough, Leeds and Newcastle United prior to gaining his first professional contract with Hartlepool in 2016.

He first teamed up with the Bulls in October 2019 after impressing in the Northern League with Billingham Synthonia, and is regarded as an intelligent deep-lying midfielder who provides the link between the back-four and those players further forward.

Pollock's father Jamie played Premier League football for Middlesbrough, Bolton Wanderers and Manchester City.



TOM OWEN- EVANS

An accomplished and hard-working midfield man who likes to get forward and support the attack, he joined The Bulls in October 2018 from Falkirk.

Born in Bristol, it was with Bristol City where he learned his trade before signing a first professional deal with Newport County in 2015.

He went on to establish a regular starting place for the Welsh club and also score his first goals to help the team escape relegation danger. The attacking midfielder had a spell on loan at Truro in the 2017/18 season where he continued to impress, and this earned him a move north of the border to Falkirk in Scotland's second-tier. However, with starting opportunities limited, he came to Edgar Street and his performances and regular goalscoring ability has made him a fans' favourite.

Paul White

Irish born goalkeeper, Paul joined the Bulls from Kettering Town having previously played for Cork City, North Leigh, Gloucester City, Frome Town, Forest Green Rovers and Boreham Wood.

The experienced former Republic of Ireland U-18 international was virtually an ever-present at Kettering, making 159 appearances for the Poppies prior to his Edgar Street move.

He established himself as the Kettering No.1 with a string of dominant performances.

Jared Hodgkiss

The experienced full-back joined Hereford in July 2019.

He started his career within the youth ranks at West Bromwich Albion, where he was loaned out to Aberdeen and Northampton Town, before going on to make over 160 appearances as a reliable and consistent member of the Forest Green Rovers team.

His next port of call was Kidderminster Harriers where he made almost 100 outings before joining Macclesfield Town and helping them secure their return to the Football League. He continued to feature as a regular member of the Silkmen defence in the league before teaming up with the Bulls prior to the 2019/20 campaign.

Kennedy Digie

Powerful defender Kennedy Digie arrived at Edgar Street ahead of the 20/21 season.

The 6ft 4in centre back can also play in midfield and rose through the ranks at Kidderminster Harriers, making his debut as a teenager against Eastleigh in 2015.

Digie whose younger brother Dennis also played for the Harriers, worked with Bulls manager Josh Gowling and Steve Burr who were player/coach and manager at Aggborough at the time.

In order to gain experience the London-born defender spent the 15/16 season on loan at Hednesford Town, making 40 league appearances and scoring four goals.

Further loan spells at Halesowen, Worcester City, Stourbridge and Nuneaton followed before Digie established himself at Aggborough, making 10 appearances as the Harriers made the play-offs in 2017/2018.

Digie spent two months on loan with York City making six appearances, before joining Guiseley on a permanent basis in February 2019.

During an 18-month spell the 24-year old made 22 league appearances, scoring once for the Lions before turning down a new deal in order to sign for Hereford in October 2020.

Callum Rowe

21-year-old Callum Rowe joined on-loan from Premier League Aston Villa in January 2021. The left-back, who is also comfortable in an advanced position as well as central-midfield, has been described by manager Josh Gowling as quick, having an eye for a pass and a one-v-one expert.

Rowe broke into Villa's under-18 squad during the 2016/17 season, where he featured regularly during the U18 Premier League campaign. The Villains finished 6th in the south division, before going undefeated during the second stage of the season to finish top of group 2.

Rowe was promoted to Villa's under-23 squad for the 2018/19 season, starting Premier League 2 matches in both defence and midfield on the left-hand side. The team finished 5th in the league, before losing to Southampton in the play-off semi-final.

Rowe tested himself against professional opposition early in the 2019/20 season, when he featured in Villa's EFL Trophy matches against Salford City and Tranmere Rovers.

Disaster struck late in 2019 when Rowe picked up a serious knee injury, which kept the young full-back sidelined for almost a year.

Rowe returned to Premier League 2 action in October 2020. A month later he started in an EFL Trophy dash against Carlisle United.

In January 2021, Rowe's senior debut came in peculiar, and now renowned, fashion. After a COVID-19 outbreak swept through the first-team squad, Villa were forced to field a starting XI of academy players for their FA Cup Third round tie with Premier League champions Liverpool.

Rowe was tasked with marking two-time Premier League Golden Boot winner Mohamed Salah and received plaudits for his display, despite Villa losing 4-1. Rowe threaded through an outstanding pass to create Louie Barry's equaliser, which stunned the champions as the young side held them to 1-1 at half-time.

Rowe arrived at Edgar Street on-loan for the remainder of the 2020/21 season a week after the cup-tie. He made his Bulls debut in our 2-0 victory over Stamford AFC in the FA Trophy Fourth round.

Toby Raison

Toby, a former Hereford FC Academy graduate, signed his first professional contract with the Bulls after impressing during pre-season.

Still only 18, the central defender began training with the first-team squad during the 2019/20 season and continues to make spectacular progress. Indeed, he has already worn the captain's armband, has shown an excellent aptitude for the game, and is keen to work alongside his senior colleagues to develop swiftly.

Samir Nabi

The 'box-to-box' versatile midfielder signed for the Club on a non-contract basis following a pre-season trial at the beginning of the 2020/21 campaign. The 24-year-old began his career in the youth ranks at West Bromwich Albion and was the top scorer for the U21 side in the 2015/16 season, scoring 6 goals in 18 appearances. Nabi left the Baggies to move to Indian Super League side Delhi Dynamos in 2016 before returning to England and penning a deal with League Two side Carlisle United the following March.

The midfielder joined Torquay United in summer 2018 before going out on loan to Halesowen Town in a bid for more game time. In June Nabi was called up to play for Pakistan in the country's 2022 FIFA World Cup first-round Qualifier against Cambodia.

January 2020 saw Nabi move to Kidderminster Harriers; after spending time training with the side he signed on until the end of the season. Having been released by Kidderminster over the summer, Nabi arrived at Edgar Street last October.

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Chris Camwell

Versatile defender or midfielder Chris Camwell signed for Hereford in September 2020. The 22-year old utility player is accomplished in a number of positions, adept in the centre of midfield while also capable of playing on the wing or at full-back.

Bedworth-born Camwell began his career alongside fellow Bull Kyle Finn at Coventry City, making his senior debut in a League One match against Scunthorpe United in April 2017. A further four appearances in the EFL Cup and EFL Trophy followed, along with a loan stint at Solihull Moors, before he was released by the Sky Blues at the end of the 2018/2019 season.

After 12 years at the Ricoh Arena, Camwell signed for Nuneaton Borough ahead of the 2019/2020 season before moving to Coventry United a month later. Camwell played a starring role with nine goals in 20 league games for The Red and Greens who were league leaders when the Midland Premier Division was suspended last March.

Dylan Jones

Jones is a versatile player capable of playing multiple positions. A strong runner with and without the ball, Jones has featured for Hereford FC in the FA Trophy. Having joined Hereford on a non-contract basis Jones is currently under dual registration with Worcester City.

The 18-year-old enjoyed brief stints with Cardiff City U-23's, Swansea and Newport County. He also had a trial with an EFL club in the summer. Jones arrived at Edgar Street late last year following a successful trial in the summer.

Yan Klukowski

The highly experienced midfielder joined the Bulls as player/coach ahead of the 2020/21 campaign.

He began his career at his local club Chippenham Town before linking up with Bath City for whom he made his league debut at the age of 18. He turned down a new deal at Twerton Park taking up a four-year scholarship at the Central Connecticut State University in the United States.

Upon his return to Britain he played again for Chippenham and Larkhall Athletic, before being snapped up by Forest Green Rovers. After three successful seasons at the New Lawn he signed for Newport County, then newly promoted to the Football League, prior to further full-time contracts at York and Torquay. Most recently he has featured for Hungerford in the National League South.

Richard Whittingham

Whittingham is a ball-playing central midfielder with a wide range of passing and excellent set-piece deliveries. He joined Hereford in November 2020, following a successful trial period in the summer.

He started his career at Bournemouth before going on to play for the likes of Whitehawk, Hemel Hempstead and Hungerford Town, whom he had the privilege of captaining. The midfielder also enjoyed brief spells at Football League clubs Swindon and AFC Wimbledon. Last season Whittingham won the Hertfordshire Senior Challenge Cup with Hemel Hempstead, the first title of his career. The 29-year-old made his debut for Hereford in a 3-3 draw against Kettering Town.

Kyle Finn

A creative midfielder who likes to get forward on the flanks to support the attack at every opportunity. He joined Hereford on a permanent basis

during the course of the 2018/19 season after impressing whilst on loan from Coventry City.

It was with the Sky Blues that he learned his trade, and his progress was such that he signed a professional contract with the club in 2017. He went on to break into the first-team, whilst also having a spell out on loan at Tamworth in order to gain further competitive experience.

Still aged only 21, he has produced some memorable performances for Hereford, including a sparkling display against York City last season, and has the hard-working and committed attitude needed to progress.

Ryan Lloyd

Former Port Vale, Chester, and Macclesfield left-sided midfielder, Ryan Lloyd, joined the Club last October.

Speaking shortly after signing, Lloyd said: "I've enjoyed being back playing football, it's been a long period off with what's going on around the world, so it's been good to have a run around. Hopefully, the cobwebs have been blown off, and I'm looking forward to getting going."

Ryan McLean

McLean joined the Club on loan in early February.

The 21-year-old joins from Newcastle Town where he had been impressing Football League scouts with his lightning pace before Covid brought a halt to their season.

Michael Bakare

Bakare joined the Club in early February from Connah's Quay Nomads where he made over 80 appearances, scoring 30 goals during a three-year spell.

The 34-year-old forward player comes with a wealth of National League experience under his belt having played for the likes of Macclesfield, Southport, Welling, Dover and Tonbridge Angels during his career.

Manager Josh Gowling said: "Michael is a real lively attacking threat. He likes to get on the ball, drive forward and is capable of skipping past players. He's got a good bit of experience at this level, so hopefully he'll come in and complement the younger lads."

Joey Butlin

Former Walsall, Hednesford Town and Walsall Wood striker Joey Butlin joined Hereford in early February, arriving from Chasetown. Butlin impressed during his time at Chasetown, scoring nine goals in 12 appearances.

Bulls boss Josh Gowling says that Butlin will bring something new to the side.

"He's a big strong player who holds the ball up well, he's got a bit of grit and nastiness about him. He uses his body well and brings other players into the game. He's got a good temperament and has trained well. We've done our research on him, I've spoken to the Assistant Manager at Chasetown who I played with at Bournemouth and Nathan Vaughan knows him as well and I've only heard good things about him" Gowling added.

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The two keepers, Christian Dibble and Mitch Walker, greet each other after last Saturday's 3:0 win over Wrexham here at the EBB Stadium



THE BIG PICTURE

Jermaine Anderson tucks home Aldershot Town's third goal in last Saturday's 3:0 win over Wrexham, much to the delight of Joel Nouble





FUN WITH T

WORDSEARCH

Can you find the names of four of Aldershot Town's cup opponents this season in our wordsearch?

WELWYN
WOKING
SOLIHULL
HEREFORD

Q	P	E	N	S	S	P	S	L	R
H	L	D	A	Q	E	L	U	Y	R
A	J	R	C	T	G	L	T	K	S
O	E	O	L	R	K	U	C	G	F
I	Q	F	A	W	Q	H	W	N	I
U	K	E	W	O	H	I	E	I	X
K	U	R	W	D	U	L	L	K	O
D	Z	E	J	F	M	O	W	O	L
W	M	H	R	F	R	S	Y	W	G
O	X	B	T	D	X	Z	N	A	G

SPOT THE BALL



HAT-TRICK QUIZ

Can you score a hat-trick of answers in our quick-fire quiz?

- 1 What is the name of Hereford's ground?
- 2 Which Shots player scored the goal in the 1:1 draw away to Hendon on this day in 1999?
- 3 Who scored the last minute winner for Crystal Palace in their 2:1 win over Brighton on Monday evening?

THE PHOENIX!



GUESS THE GROUND



WHO AM I?



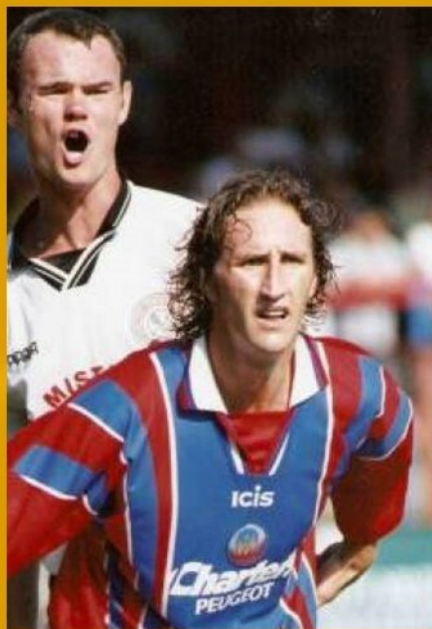
G	N	Z	X	D	I	B	X	O
A	N	Z	X	D	I	B	X	O
V	N	Z	X	D	I	B	X	O
A	N	Z	X	D	I	B	X	O
G	N	Z	X	D	I	B	X	O
M	N	Z	X	D	I	B	X	O
W	N	Z	X	D	I	B	X	O
O	N	Z	X	D	I	B	X	O
L	N	Z	X	D	I	B	X	O
O	N	Z	X	D	I	B	X	O
X	N	Z	X	D	I	B	X	O
I	N	Z	X	D	I	B	X	O
E	N	Z	X	D	I	B	X	O
F	N	Z	X	D	I	B	X	O
S	N	Z	X	D	I	B	X	O
K	N	Z	X	D	I	B	X	O
T	N	Z	X	D	I	B	X	O
R	N	Z	X	D	I	B	X	O
S	N	Z	X	D	I	B	X	O
P	N	Z	X	D	I	B	X	O
E	N	Z	X	D	I	B	X	O
N	N	Z	X	D	I	B	X	O
S	N	Z	X	D	I	B	X	O
S	N	Z	X	D	I	B	X	O
P	N	Z	X	D	I	B	X	O

Wordsearch solution

- 1 Edgar Street
- 2 Joe Nalley
- 3 Christian Bentke
- Who am I?
- Alfy Whittingham
- Spot the Ball

ANSWERS

GOLDEN GOALS



This season sees a new way of looking at Shots games gone past, this time through the medium of goals. But not the most exquisitely executed goals, although there's been plenty of those over the years – the mazy runs, the stunning free-kicks. No, this feature is going to focus on the vital goals, the significant goals, the ones that turned games and seasons, the well-timed goals in the context of the game, turning one point into three, defeat into a dramatic draw or victory over rivals, be that neighbourly or positionally. And a few goals that just announced that the Shots were back. Some were penalties, some were tap-ins, some were out of this world, but whatever they were, they were significant and sent the fans wild. And in all cases they were most definitely golden!

Gary Abbott v Basingstoke Town

Wednesday 5 May 1999

Aldershot Town 1 – 0 Basingstoke Town

(Played at The Dell, Southampton)

Goalscorer: Gary Abbott

Hampshire Senior Cup Final

Attendance: 3,143

After having arrived in the Ryman League Premier the previous spring, champions of Ryman League One, George Borg's Aldershot Town team had finished in a very respectable seventh place in the table after a

season which had seen them play 65 games and score 134 goals. (Okay, one WAS an own goal!) It had been a very special campaign, two 5:0 wins, one 6:0 and one 8:0 win in the league and good progress in all cup competitions – Fourth Qualifying Round in the FA Cup where the Shots battled competitively with near neighbours Woking, Fourth Round of the FA Trophy and all the way to the finals of the League Cup and the Hampshire Senior Cup. Now all that was needed to crown the season was some silverware from those two finals and, in a season where anything seemed possible, this ambition was to be met in a double whammy.

First off, on the May Bank Holiday, Aldershot Town and its devoted supporters travelled to Slough Town for the Ryman League Cup final, the opponents Boreham Wood. It was to prove to be a long afternoon but the Shots were eventually victorious in extra-time, Gary Abbott with the winner. Indeed, it was of no surprise to any Aldershot Town supporters that it should be 'Abbo' who slotted away the goal - he had already scored the Shots' first of the afternoon, his 46th of the season – and had been prolific throughout the whole campaign, despite some initial misgivings when Borg paid £8,000 for him at the start of the season. At 33, some thought he was too old to produce what the Shots needed but Gary had put all thoughts of that away almost immediately, scoring ten goals by mid-September and continuing to slot the ball away with relentless consistency throughout the rest of the season.



However, for many supporters, although that had been an immensely satisfying afternoon, the bigger prize that was being looked for was the Hampshire Senior Cup Final which was to take place just two days later down at The Dell, home of Southampton. The opponents were Basingstoke Town, a team that the Shots had had many a battle with in recent years and the rivalry was acute. Indeed, there was a definite score to pay because Basingstoke was one of only two clubs to have completed the double over the Shots that season, the other being champions Sutton United, and there was a real desire to show that the Hampshire neighbours could be beaten. It was not going to be easy though. The Dragons had won the HSC twice in the past three years, 1996 and 1997 and were keen to retake the trophy. This was Aldershot Town's first final in the competition but as league equals with Basingstoke, it was not easy to see which way the game would go although there was a real desire to end the season on a cup double.

It might have been thought that two games, a little over 48 hours apart would have been too much for a team at the end of a 65-match season but a George Borg side would never hide behind such a weak excuse. In front of over 3,000, principally Aldershot Town supporters, the Aldershot Town players outclassed and out-passed a dazed Basingstoke team, Ernie Howe's men seemingly knocked back by the departure from the field of play by their defender

Toby Redwood who had been stretchered off after 16 minutes. This had come after both he and Neil Champion went for the same ball, Redwood coming off the worst and Champion receiving a red card for his troubles.

There was bedlam both on and off the field after this incident, which the Basingstoke bench saw very differently to Borg and his management team but it did mean the Shots were down to ten men which made what happened at the end of the game even more remarkable. With a minute left on the clock and the score standing stubbornly at 0:0, Gary Abbott rose above former Shots defender Steve Harris to head home from a left-sided cross from Ian Hathaway. The Dell erupted in joy!

Minutes later it was all over and Aldershot Town were parading their first Hampshire Senior Cup around the stadium. It was an incredible moment for all concerned and after the amazing season he had had, a fitting end to the campaign for Gary Abbott. Abbo went on to play a further two seasons for Aldershot Town, scoring another 72 goals and making a total of 156 appearances in the red and blue. And in that time he scored plenty more significant and timely goals.

But on that evening down on the south coast, up against it with only ten men playing 11 for the majority of the game and the winning goal coming in the 90th minute and for the first win in a particular competition, well that goal stood out for Gary Abbott and his devoted Shots supporters as most definitely golden ...

Words by Victoria Rogers



FIXTURES & RESULTS

FIXTURES & RESULTS

							Mitch WALKER	George FOWLER	Alex FINNEY	Jamie SENDLES-WHITE	Kodi LYONS-FOSTER	James ROWE	Josh REES	Mo BETTAMER	Chike KANDI	Harrison PANAYIOTOU	Alfy WHITTINGHAM	
DATE	OPPOSITION	COMP	RES	ATT	AWAY	POS	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Sat 3 Oct	Hartlepool United	VNL	L 1-2	N/A	N/A	17						>>>	<<<		>		<	
Tue 6 Oct	Sutton United	VNL	L 1-2	N/A	N/A	22						>	<		1			<<<
Tues 13 Oct	Dover Athletic	VNL	W 5-0	N/A	N/A	15			>			<	>>	2	2		1>>>	
Sat 17 Oct	Eastleigh	VNL	D 2-2	N/A	N/A	13							>				>>	1
Sat 24 Oct	Woking	FAC 4Q	L 1-2	N/A	N/A	N/A							>>>		1	<		>>
Tue 27 Oct	Torquay United	VNL	L 1-4	N/A	N/A	17			<>>>				>>	>				
Sat 7 Nov	Notts County	VNL	W 1-0	N/A	N/A	13											1>	
Sat 14 Nov	Altrincham	VNL	W 2-1	N/A	N/A	11							<			<<1		
Tue 17 Nov	Maidenhead United	VNL	D 0-0	N/A	N/A	10									<	>>	>	
Sat 21 Nov	Wrexham	VNL	L 0-1	N/A	N/A	15							<			<<		>
Tue 1 Dec	Chesterfield	VNL	D 0-0	N/A	N/A	15				<					>		>>	
Sat 5 Dec	Dagenham & Redbridge	VNL	W 2-1	920	N/A	13				<<<				>	1	>>	1	
Tue 8 Dec	FC Halifax Town	VNL	L 1-3	818	N/A	16								>>	1	>	>>>	
Sat 12 Dec	Boreham Wood	VNL	L 2-3 *og	650	N/A	17							>>				>	
Sat 19 Dec	Welwyn Garden City	FAT 3	W 5-1	N/A	N/A	N/A			1						<1	1		
Sat 26 Dec	Woking	VNL	W 3-0	N/A	N/A	16				>		<				>>>	1	<<
Mon 28 Dec	Yeovil Town	VNL	L 0-3	N/A	N/A	16										>		
Sat 2 Jan	Woking	VNL	W 1-0	N/A	N/A	12										<<		
Tue 19 Jan	Solihull Moors	FAT 4	W 3-2	N/A	N/A	N/A									2	>		<<
Sat 23 Jan	Wealdstone	VNL	W 4-2	N/A	N/A	9								1		1>		<<
Tue 26 Jan	Weymouth	VNL	L 0-2	N/A	N/A	12						<<				<		<<<
Sat 30 Jan	Bromley	VNL	L 0-2	N/A	N/A	15						<		>>>		<		
Tue 2 Feb	Barnet	VNL	W 2-1	N/A	N/A	12				1					<1	<<	>	
Sat 6 Feb	Chesterfield	FAT 5	H-W	N/A	N/A	N/A												
Sat 13 Feb	Stockport County	VNL	D 0-0	N/A	N/A	12										<	<<	
Tue 16 Feb	Solihull Moors	VNL	L 1-3	N/A	N/A	13			>>>				<	1		<<		
Sat 20 Feb	Wrexham	VNL	W 3-0	N/A	N/A	11									<	>>	<<	
Tue 23 Feb	Maidenhead United	VNL	W 4-2	N/A	N/A	9			<					3	<<	>>>		
Sat 27 Feb	Hereford	FAT Q-F																
Sat 6 Mar	Notts County	VNL																
Tue 9 Mar	Torquay United	VNL																
Sat 13 Mar	Altrincham	VNL																
Tue 16 Mar	FC Halifax Town	VNL																
Sat 20 Mar	Boreham Wood	VNL																
Sat 27 Mar	Solihull Moors	VNL																
Fri 2 Apr	Stockport County	VNL																
Mon 5 Apr	Dagenham & Redbridge	VNL																
Sat 10 Apr	Yeovil Town	VNL																
Tue 13 Apr	Weymouth	VNL																
Sat 17 Apr	Barnet	VNL																
Tue 20 Apr	King's Lynn Town	VNL																
Sat 24 Apr	Wealdstone	VNL																
Sat 1 May	Sutton United	VNL																
Mon 3 May	Dover Athletic	VNL																
Sat 15 May	Hartlepool United	VNL																
Sat 22 May	Bromley	VNL																
Sat 29 May	King's Lynn Town	VNL																
TBC	Chesterfield	VNL																
TBC	Eastleigh	VNL																

PLAYER STATS

[illegible]

	2020/21		ATFC Career
	APPS GLS		APPS GLS
1 Mitch WALKER	16	-	57 -
2 George FOWLER	18	-	81 2
3 Alex FINNEY	12+1	1	47+3 1
4 Jamie SENEDES WHITE	15+2	1	15+2 1
5	-	-	- -
6 Kodi LYONS-FOSTER	20+4	-	48+16 2
7 James ROWE	9+6	-	60+19 4
8 Josh REES	27	7	27 7
9 Mo BETTAMER	21+5	10	40+7 17
10 Chike KANDI	15+8	3	15+8 3
11 Harrison PANAYIOTOU	15+3	4	33+15 8
12 Alfie WHITTINGHAM	13+5	1	23+19 3
13 Ryan HALL	-	-	1 -
14 Joel NOUBLE	13+4	3	13+4 3
15 Jermaine ANDERSON	12+3	4	12+3 4
16 Dinesh GILLELA	3	-	3 -
17 Joseph HUNGBO	2+3	-	2+3 -
18 Reece WYLIE	-	-	- -
19	-	-	- -
20 Toby EDSER	20+7	2	20+7 2
21 Ben SHROLL	1	-	1 -
22 Giles PHILLIPS	11	-	11 -
23 Killian COLOMBIE	5+4	-	5+4 -
24	-	-	- -
25 Shadrach OGIE	22+1	2	22+1 2
26 Lewis KINSELLA	-	-	91+1 -
27 Craig TANNER	7	3	20 7
29 Joe RABBETTS	-	-	1 -
30 Ricky MILLER	5+3	2	5+3 2
35 Brad JAMES	11+1	-	11+1 -
36 Mike FONDOP-TALOM	3+2	1	3+2 1
44 Ross MCCORMACK	1+2	-	1+2 -

Has left the club

Started Match

 Used Sub

Unused Sub

BOLD NUMBER Goal(s) Scored

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ALDERSHOT TOWN

Manager: Danny Searle

- 1 Mitch Walker
- 2 George Fowler
- 3 Alex Finney
- 4 Jamie Sendles-White
- 5
- 6 Kodi Lyons-Foster
- 7 James Rowe
- 8 Josh Rees
- 9 Mo Bettamer
- 10 Chike Kandi
- 11 Harrison Panayiotou
- 12 Alfie Whittingham
- 13 Ryan Hall
- 14 Joel Nouble
- 15 Jermaine Anderson
- 16 Dinesh Gillela
- 17
- 18 Reece Wylie
- 19
- 20 Toby Edser
- 21 Ben Shroll
- 22 Giles Phillips
- 23 Killian Colombie
- 25 Shadrach Ogie
- 26 Lewis Kinsella
- 27 Craig Tanner
- 29 Joe Rabbetts
- 30 Ricky Miller
- 44 Ross McCormack

NEXT UP AT THE EBB STADIUM

Altrincham

Saturday 13 March 2021

Kick-Off 3pm

Vanarama National League



HEREFORD

Manager: Josh Gowling

- Brandon Hall
- Paul White
- Toby Raison
- Darren Hodgkiss
- Chris Camwell
- Jamie Grimes
- Kennedy Digie
- Luke Haines
- Callum Rowe
- Samir Nabi
- Dylan Jones
- Kyle Finn
- Yan Klukowski
- Ben Pollock
- Ryan Lloyd
- James McQuilkin
- Richard Whittingham
- Tom Owen-Evans
- Ryan McClean
- Michael Bakare
- Joey Butlin

MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee: Tom Reeves

Assistant: Christopher Myatt

Assistant: Nicholas Dunn

Fourth Official: Michael Ryan



@OfficialShots



AldershotTownFC



AldershotTown1992

TODAY'S FIXTURES

FA TROPHY

Aldershot Town vs Hereford

Darlington vs AFC Hornchurch

Notts County vs Oxford City

Woking vs Torquay United

LEAGUE

Boreham Wood vs Solihull Moors

Bromley vs Altrincham

Hartlepool United vs Barnet

King's Lynn Town vs Weymouth

Stockport County vs Chesterfield

Wrexham vs Wealdstone

Yeovil Town vs Dagenham & Redbridge

LEAGUE TABLE

	P	GD	PTS
Torquay United	24	22	47
Sutton United	21	19	43
Hartlepool United	23	9	40
Eastleigh	23	9	38
Notts County	21	11	37
Stockport County	23	9	37
Wrexham	24	4	36
Boreham Wood	23	5	34
Aldershot Town	24	1	34
Altrincham	25	-2	33
Maidenhead Utd	21	0	32
Bromley	22	7	31
Chesterfield	20	9	30
FC Halifax Town	22	7	30
Solihull Moors	20	4	30
Yeovil Town	23	-2	29
Woking	21	-1	26
Dagenham & Red	22	-9	26
Wealdstone	21	-16	23
King's Lynn Town	20	-14	21
Weymouth	23	-14	19
Barnet	21	-35	12
Dover Athletic	15	-23	10