





The Official Matchday Programme of Aldershot Town Football Club // Issue 16 vs Altrincham // Saturday 13 March 2021 // Kick-Off 3pm // Vanarama National League













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## **ALDERSHOT TOWN**

## **FOOTBALL CLUB**

The EBB Stadium High Street, Aldershot Hampshire, GU11 1TW

Tel: 01252 320211 Fax: 01252 324347

E-Mail: admin@theshots.co.uk Website: www.theshots.co.uk

Chairman: Shahid Azeem

Directors: John Leppard, Lewis Scard, Deane Wood, Sharaz Hussain,

Waleed Khan, Simon Paget-Brown Club Secretary: Bob Green Club Ambassador: Terry Owens First Team Manager: Danny Searle Assistant Manager: Anwar Uddin

First Team Analyst & Coach: Michael Koopowitz

Coach: Danny Whitehorne
Kit Man: Nathan Lugg
Physio: Georges Berthonneau
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Commercial Manager: Mark Butler
Media & Marketing Manager: Henry Port
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Matchday Safety Officer: Michelle Enderby

**Head Groundsman:** Colin Wilson **Matchday Announcer:** Craig Matthews

Club Chaplains: Mike Pusey, George Newton, Linda Scard

Club Historian and Statistician: Pete Stanford

Programme Shop: Paul Blundell

Website: Akiko Design

Programme Editor: Victoria Rogers
Photographer: Ian Morsman

Design:

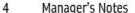
JMA Programmes @JMAProgrammes

joe@jmaprogrammes.co.uk

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vs **Altrincham** Saturday 13 March 2021 Kick-Off: 3pm Vanarama National League









Good afternoon and a warm welcome to you all, wherever you might be watching or listening to this game. We have had an enforced break from playing matches due to some positive covid tests but the players have been working hard regardless and are ready to play today. I'd also like to welcome our visitors, Altrincham, their manager Phil Parkinson, his players and staff to the EBB Stadium. We had a 2:1 win when we visited Altrincham in November against a good, ball-playing side and it should be another good game today.

The last match we played here, two weeks ago, ended in defeat and saw the end of our journey in the FA Trophy this season. We need to give credit to Hereford, they were very good on the day, they came with a good game plan and I think unfortunately, having watched the game back, it looks like the event got to some of the lads. We weren't at our normal standard and it's disappointing, you look at it and you think if we'd just performed five percent more than we did we might have won the game.

But we mustn't take anything away from Hereford, we showed great resilience when we pulled it back at the end and that gave us a chance which is what we asked the boys to give us when we spoke at half-time but the penalties saw Hereford through in the end.

Now we turn back to the league and starting today with this match with Altrincham. When we played them up there we said afterwards, this is a good team who are going to cause a lot of problems in this division. And after we beat them they went on a run and at one point they were as high as fourth in the table. They play some great football, they've got a nice style and manner about them, the way they play, so it's no shock to me that they are where they currently are in the league.

Altrincham have played 28 matches to our 24 but we have games in hand. They have points on the board and we've got to make sure we do what we need to do today to try and close that gap on them. It should be an interesting game and it is one which we have prepared for and are looking forward to.

Enjoy the game,

## Danny



## **JAMES SCARLETT**

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## CHAIRMAN SHAHID AZEEM

On behalf of Aldershot Town Football Club we welcome Altrincham FC, their players, manager and officials to this afternoon's Vanarama National League match. Altrincham are having a great season after being promoted last year.

As you are all aware, our previous two games were postponed due to players testing positive for Covid -19. Thankfully they have recovered without any issues but we have to be cautious all the time. The protocols we have to adhere to are challenging, but we are grateful to our Covid doctor Dr Peter O'Donnell, along with Ian Gair and Bob Green, who support the Club with all that it needs to do with regards to correct procedure in all matters concerning the pandemic.

We are grateful to the Garrison and Aspire for allowing us to use the Garrison facilities, along with support from the Army FA, particularly during these challenging times, when most of the sport at the Garrison is in lockdown.

Our Thursday midweek show, along with the live match streams on Saturdays and Tuesdays, is evolving and these forms of communications / engagements are vital so that we obtain and strengthen our links and relationships with our supporters and sponsors. The viewing numbers are always increasing week on week which is pleasing.

For the past few weeks we have been working on our budget for next season and again, whilst we know that we are not in the top half of the budgets in our league, Danny and Anwar, along with the coaching team have been working hard in building relationships with other clubs to ensure we have a very competitive team next season.



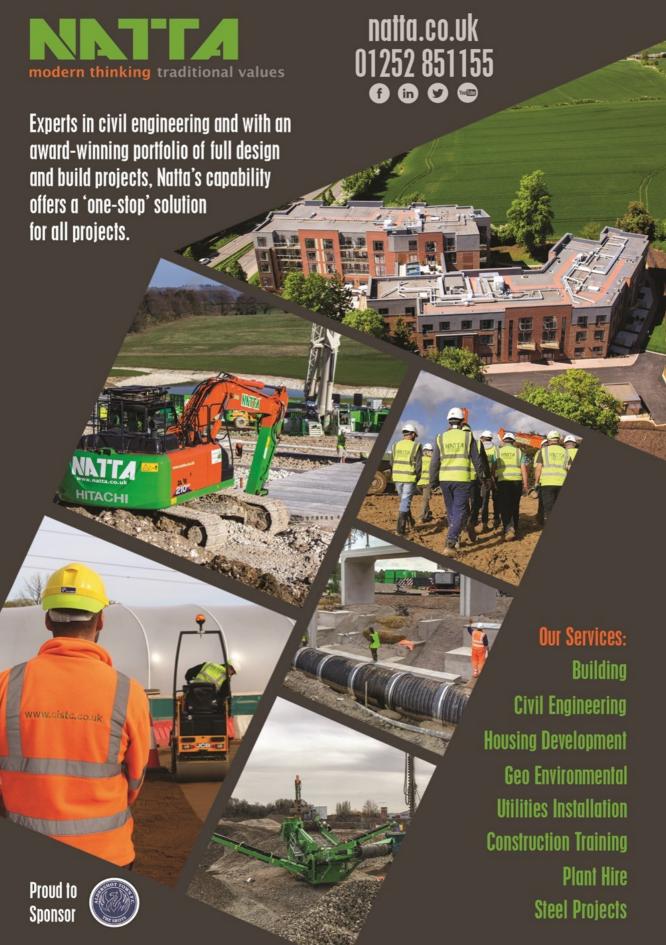
From a commercial point, again a lot of work has been taking place and like everything at the moment, we need to be creative on revenue generation. We are so grateful for our sponsors who continue to support us during challenges in their own businesses. They are committed to supporting the Club and for that we are grateful.

We envisage the next season (unless there is another lockdown), will start in mid-August, as the current season without play-offs is scheduled to finish at the end of May. This does not give the Club the necessary time to have all the work that goes on during close season to be completed. However, again all our volunteers and suppliers will do everything necessary to ensure we start in the best shape possible.

This week we saw the return of education back into school environments and again the work carried out by Ross McNeilly and his team delivering virtual training and education over the past two months to our youth players has been tremendous; it's good to see the Academy back in a "normal" situation.

Please enjoy the game

Shahid Azeem



## JAMIE SENDLES-WHITE CAPTAIN

After an enforced break of ten days due to positive covid tests in the first team squad, Jamie looks back to the FA Trophy quarter final defeat which was the Shots' last home game as well as talking about getting back to playing matches once again, starting with today's visitors, Altrincham

The Hereford match was a real disappointment, ending as it did with the Shots being knocked out of the FAT on penalties. How did Jamie see the game?

It was a disappointing one for us, it's hard to put a finger on why we didn't really perform. You've got to give credit to Hereford on the day because it was a cup game and they turned up, they had a game plan that worked very well and they stuck to it. I thought they were a pretty good side to be fair. We didn't quite deal with their game plan and didn't implement ours enough. But the Wembley dream is over which is disappointing and we've got to focus on the league now.



So it's back to the league now after having to train separately for the last two weeks. Jamie admits that it's certainly been different this year!

It's been a strange season with these ten-day breaks but we've been trying to keep ticking over at home so we will be ready to go today against Altrincham. It will be an interesting game – when we played them away they were a good footballing team and they passed the ball around nicely. We won't be taking them lightly and they have been a bit of a dark horse this season, I don't think anyone expected them to be doing as well as they are so we can't underestimate them, we have to prepare and be ready to be at 100% to get a positive result.





### WORDS BY VICTORIA ROGERS

After another short intermission where the Club had to postpone two matches due to positive covid tests – every good wish to those who were unwell on this occasion – we are back at the EBB Stadium today to hopefully resume 'normal service', at least on the field if not, sadly, on the terraces, with supporters still unable to attend matches. It is difficult to say when that might happen again, all aspects of the Government's 'Roadmap' being subject to the vagaries of infection, but it would be absolutely wonderful if the EBB Stadium could at least once more this season be filled with the noise and sounds of supporters on a match day that make this ground so special.

Indeed, all of the players I have spoken to this season for our Big Interview feature say that the supporters are a huge miss. For some it was one of the key factors for signing for this club! Players of course are professional and are able to focus on the field of play regardless of who is (or isn't!) watching them but football is the game of the people and at the moment, with no people there, it is most definitely missing a very big something.

In today's Big Interview Alfy Whittingham explains just what he feels supporters bring to games. He also talks about just how players train when, due to isolation, they have to work from home, so to speak! As a school governor I am familiar with how work was sent home in a variety of ways when children couldn't be in school and it would appear that the coaching staff here at Aldershot Town have this process nailed as well! Online meetings, running schedules – even with footballers having to train away from the Club from time to time, you have to hand it

to them that their dedication to the task is as evident as ever.

Back to today, everybody reunited and ready to play the first match in a fortnight against a team whom we defeated on their home ground back in November. In this first season back in the National League since 2016, Alty have enjoyed a fair amount of success and are three points and three places above the Shots in the table. They have played more games than anyone else in the division, 28 so far, but games in hand are of no worth whatsoever if you don't win them. Indeed, for those clubs with a lot of matches to be fulfilled over the next 11 weeks it is going to be a frantic time and a test of fitness and stamina, levels and clubs who have already played a full quota of matches may well be in the box seat as regards the all-important season-end runin May.

Here at Aldershot Town, our recent cup run led to some matches being rescheduled, along with of course the postponements of the last week – frustrating for the players, coaching staff, management, supporters and everyone involved with the Club as another Saturday came around with no Shots match to watch. As I said above, it also means that more matches are compressed into an even-shorter time and with other clubs also trying to catch up there is always the spectre of possibly having to play one or two matches on a Thursday night too should we lose many more games – let's hope it doesn't come to that. The pressure on players to produce performances across three matches in a seven-day period is too much – whatever club they play for and however well-trained and fit they are.

There doesn't look as though there will be relegation this season from the National League (although that is a fast-moving picture with regards to some clubs still wishing to play on in the currently curtailed NLN and NLS divisions), but no manager will want to see their team in the bottom three of this division come the end of the season. Therefore we hope that the pattern of the last few weeks, with fewer and fewer matches being called off due to infection continues and that our season can end in a positive and upbeat way, not in a crowded how-many-matchescan-you-cram-into-a-week way! Whatever way it does end, we know that the players, under Danny and Anwar, will continue to give their very best, aiming at all times for the upper echelons of the NL table and continuing to play the type of football we all enjoy watching, albeit currently through a streaming service. It's not the same, it never will be the same until supporters are back in grounds, but at the moment, it's all we've got as we look forward to the day we can all be together once again at the EBB Stadium - I suspect for all of us, it can't come fast enough!



## TODAY'S MASCOT



Graham is eight-years-old and lives in New York. He has been supporting the Shots for over four years and was a mascot for the Maidstone home game at the end of December 2017, while visiting the UK.

His dad, Gregg, says 'Graham's been following the Shots a ton during the pandemic, and we've been streaming many of their matches. We really hope to be able to come over (to the UK) in December for Christmas.'

Graham's current favourite players are Josh Rees, Joel Nouble and especially Shadrach Ogie.

## MATCH ACTION

Saturday 27 February Buildbase FA Trophy Quarter-Final Kick-Off 3pm

The Shots 1 Rees 90+4'

Hereford 1
Bakare 6'
(Hereford won 4:3 on penalties)
The EBB Stadium



The Shots: Walker, Whittingham, Phillips, Lyons-Foster, Ogie, Miller, Rowe (Booked) (Edser 72'), Anderson (Booked), Rees, Kandi (Bettamer 57') (Booked), Nouble Subs: Hall, Sendles-White, Bettamer, Gillela, Edser, Shroll, Rabbetts



Hereford: Hall, Hodgkiss, Haines, Grimes, Camwell (Booked) (Pollock 80'), Butlin (Booked) (Rowe 87'), Owen-Evans (Booked), Finn (Booked), Lloyd, Bakare, Butroid Subs: White, Pollock, Digie, McQuilkin, Klukowski, Rowe, Jones







## 44 POST-MATCH THOUGHTS 77

## **DANNY SEARLE**

'Everyone's gutted. We gave it everything we had but we started so slowly and have them a goal. Every single thing went against us and sometimes it's not meant to be.'

## **JOSH GOWLING**

'We didn't want to think we were playing against a team from a higher level, and we spoke about can they match our work-rate? Our running stats are elite level.'





## PLAYER KIT



HOME: Andy Wilde

AWAY:

Shots Away Travel

Mitch Walker



HOME & AWAY:

Roger Niblett



George Fowler

HOME: Martin & Adam Jessop

AWAY: For Gillobean

Alex Finney



HOME & AWAY: The Three Grumpy Gits

Jamie Sendles-White



HOME: SCSJ Consulting AWAY:

Adrian Butt

Kodi Lyons-Foster



HOME & AWAY: Ian White

James Rowe



HOME: The Rightsiders

AWAY: Marshels Roofing

Josh Rees



HOME: Muhammed Ali

AWAY: Andy Wilde

Mo Bettamer



HOME: Andrew King AWAY:

Hussayn Awais-Ali

Chike Kandi



HOME: Heather Nicklinson

AWAY: SCSJ Consulting

Harrison Panaviotou



HOME: The Blair Family

AWAY: Bobby Proudlock

Alfy Whittingham



HOME & AWAY: Richard, Julie & Bradley Layton

Ryan Hall



HOME: Bobby Proudlock

AWAY: Marc Bowerman

Joel Nouble



HOME:

AWAY: Sheffield Baz

Jermaine Anderson



HOME & AWAY: Sunnvside Removals

Reece Wylie



HOME & AWAY: Richard, Julie & Bradley Layton

Toby Edser



HOME & AWAY: O'Neill & Brennan

Ben Shroll



AWAY:

Giles Phillips



HOME & AWAY: Andy Pusey

Killian Colombie



HOME: Adrian Butt

AWAY: Jim Speight

Shadrach Ogie



HOME: Simon Regan

AWAY: Phoenix Plumbing and Heating

Lewis Kinsella

## PONSORSHIP



HOME:

Phoenix Plumbing and Heating

AWAY:

Noman & Neil Kelsev

Craig Tanner



HOME & AWAY:

Promote UK Ltd

Joe Rabbetts



HOME:

George Harland & Ruby Harland AWAY:

Liam Puttock

Ricky Miller



HOME & AWAY: ATFC Runners

Brad James



HOME: Marshels Roofing

AWAY:

The Rightsiders

Ross McCormack

## STAFF KIT **SPONSORSHIP**



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Danny Searle





Anwar Uddin



SPONSOR:



Georges Berthonneau

Mark Butler



Danny Whitehorne

## Player & Staff Kit Sponsorship

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SPONSOR: Last of the

Summer Wine

Laura Chiverton

One of the most enticing ways to be linked with Aldershot Town Football Club is by sponsoring a player's home or away kit. It is an ideal

opportunity for fans to show their support for their favourite player, as well as the club.

For more information on the player and staff kit sponsorship package, please contact Mark Butler, Commercial Manager on 01252 320211 or you can email him on Mark.Butler@theshots.co.uk





## BIG SHOTS QUIZ





## WIN A SIGNED SHIRT AND 2 HOSPITALITY SEATS!





£10 ENTRY



The Big Shots Quiz

Aldershot Town Football Club will be running an exciting event called 'The Big Shots Quiz,' giving fans the opportunity to compete with manager Danny Searle and our Mastermind Champion (which is to be revealed in next week's Midweek Show).

This will take place on Wednesday 24 March at 7pm and will consist of a variety of sports questions including a round just for Aldershot Town trivia.

The 5 rounds will consist of 8 questions each and will be as follows:

- Aldershot Town FC Season 20/21 so far
- Aldershot Town FC history of the club/previous seasons
- 3. England Men's National Team past and present
- Aldershot FC before The Phoenix Rose

### **General Sport**

Tickets are now on sale for £10 and will be available to purchase in our online Club Shop and we will send all entrants your personal Zoom link and link to the quiz on the day of the event.

The ultimate winner of our Big Shots Quiz will win two hospitality seats for next season.

Other prizes will also include: A free copy of Football Manager 2021, a signed ball from the first-team players and staff, a signed shirt from the first-team players and staff and a standard mascot package for next season when we hope fans can return to the stadium.

Howard Taylor, (who is kindly sponsoring the event with his company Howard Taylor Associates), also defeated Gareth Southgate for the England Championship Lockdown Quiz and will host the event virtually alongside our regular TV Show host and Commercial Manager Mark Butler.

We are aiming for over 100 entries which would return at least £1,000 for the Club. The deadline for entries is Tuesday 23 March at 4pm and you can enter by contacting henry.port@theshots.co.uk with the email subject 'The Big Shots Quiz'.

We hope to see you all there!



## MIDWEEK EXTRA

Have you seen the Aldershot Town Midweek Extra show yet? If not, you've been missing out on so much! Going out on the Shots YouTube channel on a Thursday evening, kick-off 7pm and ably hosted by Aldershot Town Commercial Manager, Mark Butler, it's 90 minutes of interviews and features on your favourite club. Each week, manager Danny Searle and Club chairman, Shahid Azeem answer your questions, there are fun features with the players who are currently locked in battle in their own version of Mastermind, and interviews with former players and managers – Scott Rendell, Steve Stairs, Steve Wignall and Barry Smith have all spoken frankly and fully with Mark Butler and there are plenty more interviews to come.

Having shared his coaching 'knowledge' across the first team squad in Matt Wigman's School of Coaching, Club ticket office manager Matt Wigman, accompanied by Aldershot Town media manager Henry Port, has embarked on a new activity, talking to Shots supporters in a new feature called Shots Around the World. Is there a Shots supporter on every continent? Keep watching to find out!

This week's edition will be at the same time, 7pm on Thursday evening and to watch it live, click on the link on the Club website news article or, if you want, you can watch it later at any time, again on YouTube – in fact, why not subscribe to the Club's official YouTube channel and never miss a news update from the Red and Blue ever again? And once subscribed, you can watch the editions you may have missed.







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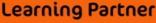


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# SHOTS IN FOCUS SHADRACH OGIE





Full Name: Shadrach Ogie

Date and place of birth: 25/08/01 in Ireland

Height: 6'3"

Married: No

Nickname: Shad

Car: None

Previous clubs: Hornchurch, Pike Rovers, Leyton Orient

(currently on loan to The Shots)

Team you supported as a boy: Manchester United

Favourite current player: Marcelo

Most difficult opponent: Callum Hudson-Odoi

Most memorable match: Scoring a hat-trick on my birthday

Biggest disappointment: Getting a month-and-a-half ban

Football honours: Winning Player of the Year

Favourite other sports: Basketball

Favourite other sportsmen/women: Mike Tyson

Hobbies: Watching TV

Favourite TV show: Big Bang Theory

Favourite musicians: NBA YoungBoy

Miscellaneous likes: Being prepared

Miscellaneous dislikes: Being late

Best country visited: Portugal

Favourite food: Lasagne

Favourite restaurant: Double Apple

Favourite drink: Apple juice

Biggest drag in football: Getting subbed off before half-time

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

Rugby player

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

Kobe Bryant

If given £1million what would be the first thing you would

buy: A house



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

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## ALDERSHOT TOWN SUPPORTERS CLUB

Good Afternoon Everyone,

After a couple of games cancelled due to positive covid results, we bet the players/staff are raring to go today!!

We welcome Altrincham to the EBB Stadium today, who had a draw on Tuesday night.

Firstly, we would like to thank the **FFF Brewery** for being our Supporters' Club sponsors for our first year. Our new sponsors are **Spedeworth Motorsports** and we thank them. They are the UK's biggest short circuit racing promoters, and have been a leading name in stock car and banger racing for well over 40 years. You can see them at the Rushmoor Arena, in Claycart Road, Aldershot. For more information, go to their website www.spedeworth.co.uk/venue.php? name=Aldershot

We will be doing the next members' draw winner on 1 April 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 for 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 when we are allowed back into grounds. We now have our new membership cards in and from Monday you can pick up your renewal/new membership cards from the Club Shop or when we are able to open the Supporters Club hut, at the next home game we

are allowed in to.

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.

If you haven't already please sign up for In with a Shot. As you know, there are winners every week and the money goes to the Club and you, the fans. It is a weekly draw, either a £2 game or £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 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. On last Thursday's show we found out who Aldershot Town's Mastermind Champion was. He will now be the partner with Danny Searle in The Big Shots Quiz that is on Weds 24th March at 7pm. Please sign up for this, it's £10 entry and you can win a signed shirt and two Hospitality tickets for next season. Tickets are available from the Club Shop website.

Remember we are also on Instagram atfc\_supporters\_dub

Hope you enjoy the game.

Sian Blair - Membership Secretary





## ON THE OUTSIDE LOOKING IN



We all hope for some good news with regards to the pandemic and the ease of restrictions back to some sense of normality in the near future. The fact that our last two matches were postponed due to Covid-19 positive testing within the squad brings it home that the virus continues to be prominent and whatever is required to reduce this once and for all must continue to be adhered to. I sincerely hope that all is well with those who have been infected within the squad.

The virus has affected football greatly throughout, whether it be at the top level or grass roots. We have had our own challenges within the Army Football Association over the past 12 months. We now have our own provisional road map of how we may be able to complete some competitions this season once suitable restrictions allow for this to be possible. However, one competition that has now been lost for a second successive campaign is the Inter Services competition- Constantinople Cup for the men and Williamson Trophy for the women.

The tournament has been competed for since 1905 when the Army and Royal Navy played. The first-ever match was staged on 25 February 1905. His Majesty King Edward VII was accompanied by His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales at Queen's Club. The Army won 2-0. It set up a competitive but respectful rivalry to this day. In 1921 the Royal Air Force joined "the party".

Indeed it had been completed every year (outside of the two World Wars) until last season where we had to postpone as a new regional lockdown was announced in the week we were hoping to commence the competition in November (the original March dates were postponed). Sadly, circumstances

have confirmed that 2021 has also been cancelled.

Since 2008 we have, apart from a couple of seasons, been pleased for the Army home match to be staged at the EBB Stadium, usually during the month of March. Last season there had been so much excellent community work undertaken in advance between the Army Men's team, Shots Foundation, Football Club and local schools who were undertaking historic projects as part of their awareness of the 75th anniversary of VE Day. Sadly the match didn't take place, but it would have been rewarding for so many to see the hard work come to fruition.

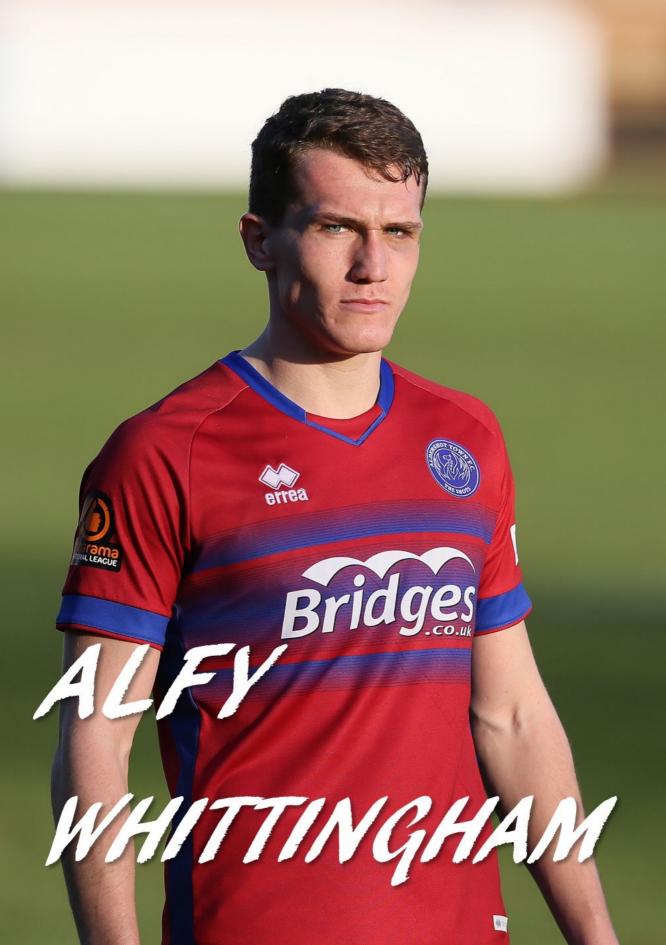
We will look ahead to 2022 now and hope the Football Club will be able to stage the resumption of this annual competition, where the Royal Navy are due to be the home opponent for the Army home match. Last time they were in town the Army won a remarkable match 7-3; the highest-scoring Inter Services match since 1959.

These are great occasions. The Army FA is proud of its relationship with the Football Club and we look forward to resuming our friendship and association when these dark days start to ease.

### Words by Graham Brookland







## THE BIG INTERVIEW

Having been in the unique position last season of being the only part-time player in a full-time squad (he played for expenses only and earned his living as a personal fitness instructor), Alfy Whittingham was delighted to be offered a one-year contract last summer for the 2020-21 season. In fact, as he says, it was a massive sigh of relief for him.

'After my first year with Aldershot I think what was big for me was to make sure I had a year contract – financially I needed to have a year contract somewhere, I couldn't afford to pay for free anymore. I had offers from a few other clubs but for me, I didn't want to play anywhere else because of the way I felt with the fans and the Club itself - I really loved it here! I think I was one of the first players to be offered to, the gaffer made it really clear to me that he wanted me to stay and as soon as he said that, I only had one thought and that was to re-sign as soon as possible.'

Obviously he feels a strong bond with the Club. What is it that makes it special, playing for Aldershot Town? Alfy is clear about it being a lot to do with one particular group of people.

'For me, it's a lot to do with the fans and the Club itself and the kind of pressure that comes with it as well. To know that you are playing for a club that has a lot of history and that is at a very good level in the National League and the fact that you get roughly 1,500 to 2,000 fans at a game, let alone fans and people who check the results every week as well. And to play for a team that has that sort of passion, that sort of community as a club for me, to have that pressure that I've got to play well every week, get results and stuff like that. That's one of the biggest reasons I love playing for the Club.'

Last season we all knew Alfy as a midfielder and indeed he started this season in his usual position. In recent weeks though he has been covering at right back – how has he found it playing in a more defensive role and does he enjoy it?

'My position in midfield, don't get me wrong, I love that and that's where I want to play, but for me, having games and game time is the most important thing at my age. Being 22, I need to play as many games that I can and I think I'm quite versatile as a player, that my strengths can fit into any position in the squad. And at right back, the last couple of games, I have done well there.

'I don't know if that is going to stick or what will happen going forward. But the good thing is, there's competition in all the places in the team. I wasn't playing much earlier in the season and that was mainly because of the competition in the squad. And it's the same now, George Fowler's coming back fit and he is a very good right back so competition for places is really good. But for me, it's about being in the starting 11. It's the most important thing for me, I want to be out there. If I'm going to be out there in midfield then that's ideally what I want but anywhere in any position! As long as I'm out there I'm happy.'

So does he have to change his playing style in this far more defensive role?

'The gaffer gives us a lot of freedom. We have our basics we have to do every games defensively – we always think defensively first. With Anwar around, his philosophy is a very defensive mind set. But the gaffer gives us freedom to get forward. That's one thing with me, I'm quite fit and I've got energy so for me, playing at full back gives me opportunities to get up and down the pitch, to get around Joel or whoever is playing in front of me on the wing and I really enjoy it, getting forward but also having that defensive side to me.'



Alfy scored twice last season and was on target again last autumn with a goal against Eastleigh. Would he like to score more goals?

'I'd love to score more goals this season! If I'm honest, I feel like I should have scored more. I didn't play the first two games of the season, I got into the team against Dover and then I played the nest seven or eight games until I got injured against Wrexham. And I feel if I hadn't got that injury I probably would have scored a few more goals.

'I think a massive thing with football is getting that consistency and confidence, the more games you play the more consistency it brings and the higher up the pitch I'll go, my timing into the box will be better and then I think I would have really progressed if I hadn't been injured. But after the injury it put me out for a few weeks and coming back in to the competitiveness of the squad and the players we've got, it's difficult (to get back into the team). But I still believe in myself, there's still 20 games left and I know it's going to be hard from right back to get another couple of goals this season, but I've got two assists in the last two games so hopefully I can get more assists and try and add a few more goals.'

Everyone will agree that this current season has been one of the most challenging ever, for all clubs and their supporters. The Shots have endured their share of postponements and spells of isolation, the last ten days having seen two matches called off due to positive tests

in the camp. How does Alfy keep focussed in what can be a mixed and variable playing and training schedule?

'The biggest thing is, a professional schedule to be put into place and kept at and to be fair to the staff, they have done that. As soon as we were told last week that we weren't going to be in training for the next week because a few more players had tested positive, straightaway the next day there was a plan in place where we had a schedule of runs and recovery times that we had to do on our own and workouts at home. I think that was good for both our physicality and our mentality too. Today (Monday) we had a run scheduled and a recovery session on Zoom and I think without that (being in place) it would have been hard for us. The boys, mentally and physically are ready to get straight back at it today because the staff put in a schedule and made sure we weren't going to be slacking.

'We've got about two and a half months left of the season and we've got a lot of games to fit in so I think this last week has mentally prepared us to get over these final few months and really push ourselves up the table as high as we can for a good finish.'

Along with the breaks from playing and postponements, has been the absence of supporters from matches for the majority of the season. What does Alfy feel fans bring to matches, along with the sense of challenge to him to perform at his very best that he mentioned earlier in the interview?

'There is so much. A footballer's job is to have that passion and determination no matter what, on the football pitch. Whether the fans are there or not we haven't stopped that. A lot of players do thrive off that atmosphere of support though and I do think a few of the games last year, at home especially, the fans helped us through. When you've got that many people surrounding you in a stadium, cheering you on, all it can be is positive and it helps you and gives you that little bit more energy. Even if you're feeling low or tired in the 80th minute, having that atmosphere around you, just gives you that energy to push on.

'Obviously one of the biggest things is scoring a goal and being able to celebrate and even at the final whistle, being able to celebrate a win with the fans, going over to them, clapping, it makes such a difference to how you feel. For example, my goal was scored at Eastleigh when we went 2:1 up - if we'd had a full stadium of fans and we usually take 4 or 500 down there, it would have been incredible memories to be able to run over to our fans and celebrate with them. They make a massive difference and I think there's no denying it.'

With everyone confined to their homes when they aren't working, what does Alfy like to do to relax after training?

'I've been walking the dog a lot! I think the dog's fed up of walking because I take him on a walk, my dad takes him on another one and then my mum takes him on one. We have our sessions that we do and I like to do a bit extra myself in the qym, I'm lucky enough to have a qym

in the garage so I can go there. And I've spent a lot of time chilling, watching new series, listening to music, I'm a pretty chilled guy when it comes to away from football. Especially now, because last year I had a job, I was working but this year I've stopped working that job to allow me to fully concentrate on my football. As soon as the day is over for me with my work and training, I just like to recover and chill.'

And with matches starting again today for the Shots and 20 more matches to play, what are Alfy's hopes for the rest of the season?

'I think the massive focus for us isn't so much to set an end goal – I think everyone knows what we want to do is to achieve play-offs. I think that would be a massive achievement for the squad. What we've always struggled with is consistency and I think that is probably because we are a young squad, so I think the way we are looking at it from now on is at the next game, and every next game all the focus is on that game. We don't think about where we are going to be if we win, where we'll be if we lose or where we are going to be in two months' time, three months' time. Since Danny's been here, we've been a great team at times but we are inconsistent with our results and I think that the mentality he is trying to drive at the moment to find that consistency, we've got to focus on the present and then every game as it comes and I think that's the way forward for us.'

**Words by Victoria Rogers** 







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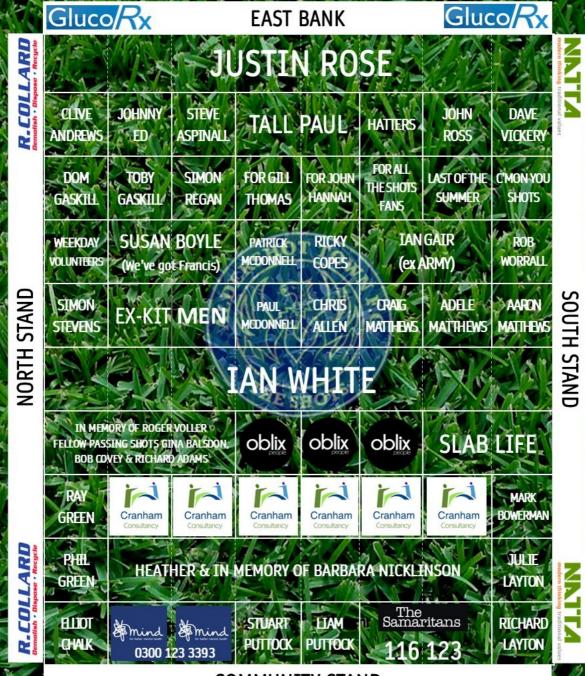
I was born and bred in Aldershot, in what was the old Cottage Hospital. I first went to watch Aldershot play in 1977 and my favourite player of all time was Murray Brodie.

I was meant to be Match Ball sponsor a few weeks ago, but I ended up in hospital with Covid 19. At that time it would have been for me, in memory of my son, Ryan, who would have been 21 and who was tragically killed in a car accident whilst being a passenger last August. His first match he went to was Chesham United aged 2 ½ years old and then he came with me to most games after that, sitting on my knee in North Bank Central, until he was older enough to stand in the East Bank with his mates. He has been co-match day sponsor, mascot and ball boy. We were the face on Setanta TV when we got promoted to the Football League against Exeter, as the camera kept going on us both in the second half. Another enjoyable day out we had together was when we beat big Sam's West Ham, absolutely bouncing.

Ryan loved football and played for Wey Valley Warriors from the age six to 15, for whom I was the team's coach for a few years when they were older. I would like thank all Shots supporters who left kind words on the Shots Facebook page last August and Alfy Whittingham for his help when it was needed. My boy will always be a Red and Blue.

## Micky Nelson





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The second second

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: Dexter

Age Group: U-17s

Playing Position: Centre back

### When did you join the Aldershot Town Academy?

I joined Aldershot Town at Christmas, during the U-16/17 season

### When did you first start playing football?

I started playing football when I was four for Petersfield Town as a striker before changing to a centre back when I was U-14s at Portsmouth

## What team do you support?

I was born in Portsmouth so have supported them my whole life as my dad took me to watch them from a young age

### What type of player are you?

I'm a ball-playing centre back who loves to be on the ball. I also like to try to be a leader on and off the pitch

## Who is your favourite footballer?

My favourite footballer is Cristiano Ronaldo due to his work ethic and longevity in the game

### Describe the best goal you have scored?

The first goal that comes to mind is when I hit a firsttime volley over the goalkeeper from 40 yards in a preseason game for Portsmouth v Reading

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

This season my aim is to develop myself as much as possible and try and help the team to win the league

### What are your hopes for your footballing-future?

I hope one day to get a professional contract with Aldershot and play at as high a level as I can

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

My advice for an up and coming Academy player is to work harder than anybody else in everything you do and don't let your standards drop, both mentally and physically



### Be an Aldershot Town Virtual Mascot

Young Aldershot Town fans can be a virtual mascot from the comfort of their own homes with the launch of our new package!

While we cannot be together in person, we are delighted to launch our virtual mascot packages, which allows you to have an experience like never before.

This is designed to be a truly unique experience for our Junior Shots. Whether it be a birthday present, a congratulatory gift or just because you think they deserve it; we have the perfect experience for you.

### VIRTUAL MASCOT

### The package includes:

- An Aldershot Town 2020/21 home or away shirt (depending on which one the mascot prefers).
- A pre-match zoom call from the mascot's favourite player or the manager.
- An appearance on Aldershot Town's official social media channels on matchday.
- A copy of our The Shots match day programme (a hard copy will be sent out after the match).
- A signed picture of our first-team photo

An Aldershot Town certificate of authenticity signed by Commercial Manager Mark Butler

\* We also ask our virtual mascots to have a 'second choice' for the player they would like to partner with and pass on these details to the emails detailed below.

Price: £75 per mascot (which is a bargain given the package would individually total up to £100!)

Booking is online only and we ask that those interested to email either our Commercial Manager Mark Butler at <a href="mailto:mark.butler@theshots.co.uk">mark.butler@theshots.co.uk</a> or our Ticket and Merchandise Officer Matt Wigman at <a href="mailto:mattheshots.co.uk">matt.wigman@theshots.co.uk</a>

## REARRANGED FIXTURES

Aldershot Town's progress to the quarter-finals of the FA Trophy along with some postponed matches due to the recent positive covid tests at the Club has led to the rearrangement of three fixtures, details of which are below.

## NOTTS COUNTY AWAY



Our Vanarama National League match away to Notts County that was due to be played on Saturday 6 March has been moved to Tuesday 30 March with a 7pm kick-off.

The reason for the original postponement was due to an incident of positive Covid-19 tests within our first-team players and staff that saw us undertake the appropriate self-isolation period.

## TORQUAY UNITED AWAY



Our Vanarama National League match away to Torquay United that was due to be played on Tuesday 9 March has been moved to Tuesday 27 April with a 7pm kick-off.

The reason for the original postponement was due to an incident of positive Covid-19 tests within our first-team players and staff that saw us undertake the appropriate self-isolation period.

## EASTLEIGH HOME



Our Vanarama National League match at home against Eastleigh FC that was due to be played on Saturday 27 February has been moved to Tuesday 18 May with a 7pm kick-off.

The reason for the original postponement was due to our progression in the Buildbase FA Trophy, that saw us play against Hereford in the Quarter-Final stage on 27 February, necessitating the postponement of the scheduled fixture with Eastleigh.

# PLAYER AND GOAL OF THE MONTH FEBRUARY

Congratulations to Joel Nouble and Josh Rees who are respectively, Aldershot Town's Player and scorer of the Goal of the Month for February.

Shots number 14, Nouble, played in all six matches in February playing a key role in Shots' wins against Wrexham and Maidenhead along with contributing to the goals scored, with a brace in the 3:0 home win against Wrexham.

Rees also appeared in all of the Shots matches last month, scoring five goals including a hat-trick in the 4:2 win at Maidenhead United, his third goal being voted as the Goal of the Month by Aldershot Town fans. In time added on Rees ran onto an excellent pass from Alfy Whittingham and finished smoothly past the advancing Magpies goalkeeper.

Well done both! We look forward to plenty more fine performances from you over the final few months of the season.







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# INTRODUCING ALTRINCHAM

Altrincham are the next visitors at the EBB Stadium, for the 2020/21 National League Season. They currently sit in 11th place in the National League table, following their promotion to the non-league top flight at the end of last season. Altrincham are closer to the play off places than to looking back towards the relegation zone. The Robins drew 1-1 against Hartlepool in their last game, on Tuesday night. Altrincham's recent victory against Woking, saw the end of a losing streak that saw five league defeats in a row. Phil Parkinson's side lost the first fixture against the Shots 2-1, at Moss Lane in November.

In goal for the Hartlepool game was Tony Thompson. Thompson has been the first choice goalkeeper for Altrincham this season, making 28 league appearances. Altrincham did not have a goalkeeper on the bench.

In defence, Reagan Ogle is on loan from Accrington Stanley. Ogle joined on loan at the beginning of March and has made two league appearances. Former Burnley and Curzon Ashton player, Joel Senior, has made 25 league appearances this season and been a regular in the line-up. Toby Mullarkey has made 16 league appearances this season and scored in the 2-2 draw at Sutton United in January. Yoan Zouma, is another EFL loanee, coming in from Barrow. Zouma had made seven appearances in all competitions for Barrow, prior to joining Altrincham and has made two league appearances for the Robins since arriving at the beginning of March.

In midfield, former Plymouth trainee, Jake Moult, has made 25 league appearances. Moult has scored twice this season, with goals against Dagenham & Redbridge and Bromley. He was sent off in the 2-1 victory against Torquay in February. Alistair Smith has been on loan at the Club since November, from Mansfield Town. Smith has made 21 league appearances for Altrincham, with his debut being against The Shots in November. Ryan Colclough was Altrincham's scorer against Hartlepool. Colclough's goal was his fourth of the season in 14 league appearances. Colclough signed in November from Scunthorpe United. Colclough's other goals have come against

Stockport, Torquay and Wrexham.

Up front, Yusifu Ceesay has scored three goals in 24 league appearances. Ceesay signed from Blackpool, having had two loan spells at Altrincham since February 2019. Ceesay scored against Eastleigh and in both games against Stockport. Matthew Kosylo has made 27 league appearances this season, scoring three goals. Kosylo's goals have come against Barnet, Boreham Wood and Woking. Kosylo was sent off in the 1-0 defeat against Bromley and has also received 10 cautions this season. Kosylo's ten cautions sees him lead the league in yellow cards. Montel Gibson is a loan signing from Grimsby, where he has made 23 appearances for the League Two side this season, scoring three goals. The Hartlepool game was Gibson's second appearance for Altrincham, having signed at the beginning of the month.

# HISTORY

This afternoon's game is the 12th between the sides. The Shots have won five games, Altrincham have won four and there has been two draws. The game earlier this season saw The Shots win 2-1 in November. Goals from Toby Edser and Chike Kandi gave The Shots a 2-0 lead. Toms Peers' 89th minute goal was not enough to stop The Shots, taking all three points. The sides shared the victories in the last season the two sides played, the 2015-16 campaign, with Altrincham winning the game at Moss Lane 4-0 in the March. The Shots had won their home game 2-0, with goals from Jack Saville and Rhys Browne, in October 2015.



# THE BOSS PHIL PARKINSON

Phil Parkinson was appointed on 28 April 2017, the eve of the last game of the 2016-17 season in which Altrincham had been relegated to the Northern Premier League. Phil arrived three days after his former club, Nantwich Town, had lost in the Evo-Stik Northern Premier League promotion play -off semi-final at Spennymoor Town. He had managed The Dabbers since February 2015 and in that time he had transformed them from a relegation-threatened club to promotion contenders.

Phil also took Nantwich to the FA Trophy semi-finals in 2016.

As a player, he was a junior at Crewe Alexandra, and then at Reading, before having a year at Port Vale. He made some two hundred appearances for Nantwich as a player, where he captained the team that won the FA Vase in 2006, as well as leading the Dabbers to promotion from the North West Counties League and UniBond League First Division.

Phil enjoyed promotion from the NPL as champions in his first season and reached the play-offs in 2018-19 in National League North before winning promotion to the National League via the play-offs in 2020.

Outside of football he is a Sports Science lecturer.





# 1 TONY THOMPSON

Talented young goalkeeper Tony joined Alty in the summer of 2017 after appearing in several pre-season games. After initially acting as an understudy to Tim Deasy, he soon established himself as Phil Parkinson's first choice goalkeeper and was a key part of the EvoStik title winning squad.

Before joining the Robins, Tony had begun his career with Rotherham United. He gained experience on loan out at Curzon Ashton, Ossett Town, Chelmsford City and Southport.

He later transferred to Morecambe where he made two professional appearances before making the move to Chester and then AFC Fylde from where he went out on loan to Warrington Town.



# 15 MATTY KOSYLO

Aged 28 and widely regarded as one of non-League's most potent attackers during his time with FC Halifax Town, Kosylo's arrival at Altrincham from AFC Fylde represents the successful conclusion to a lengthy quest by Phil Parkinson to be reunited with a player he has always rated highly.

Starting out at Stockport County, Kosylo had spells with Ashton United, Hyde and Vauxhall Motors before his career finally started to blossom under Parkinson at Nantwich.

He was named Evo-Stik Premier Division Young Player-of-the-Season in 2015-16, as well as being included in the team of the year, and the campaign ended in eye-catching style as he threatened an FA Trophy upset with a virtuoso performance in both legs of the semi-final against eventual Wembley winners Halifax.

Halifax made him their main transfer target that summer. Kosylo became a crowd favourite with his explosive pace and ability to run defenders ragged, operating on either flank or through the middle.

Over the course of the next three seasons, he contributed over 30 goals. He eventually chose full-time football with AFC Fylde in 2019, moving to Altrincham in the summer of 2020.



### **6** Jake Moult

Central midfielder Jake originally signed for Altrincham in 2012 on a 93-day loan, but his impressive performances in the centre of the park soon earned him a permanent deal. Since then, he has filled in at a number of positions, taken the captain's armband and even had a brief spell as caretaker manager alongside Shaun Densmore and Alan Goodall, after the departure of Neil Young in August 2016.

Perhaps his most memorable moment in an Alty shirt came in 2015 when he scored a 30-yard lob away to Colchester United in the FA Cup, a match which the Robins only lost 3:2, in time added on.

Prior to joining Alty, Jake had played for Port Vale, Stafford Rangers, Kidsgrove and Alfreton.



# 5 Tom Hannigan

Tom is the only remaining Alty player to have been signed by Neil Young, arriving in the summer of 2016. A dependable centre-back, he initially struggled with a series of injuries, before returning for the end of season run-in, helping the Robins earn promotion.

Tom began his career with Tranmere Rovers before playing for Vauxhall Motors and AFC Fylde. At Fylde, he was named "Player of the Season" by his manager. Since arriving at Altrincham he has made over 170 appearances in all competitions, scoring nine goals.

#### 3 Connor Hampson

Left-back Hampson joined Alty on loan from Stockport County, before joining permanently shortly after. Also capable of playing in midfield, he also filled in at centre-back for the end of season run in, helping the team to promotion.

Before joining Stockport, Connor had played for Curzon Ashton for six years. Prior to his spell at the Tameside Stadium, he had played under future Curzon manager John Flanagan at Mossley from the age of 16.

#### 2 Andy White

Andy is another player to have featured under Phil Parkinson at Nantwich, although he joined after a spell at Southport. Most comfortable at left-back, Andy showed his versatility by operating at both centre back and left back for the Robins.

Whilst at Nantwich, Andy had been named player of the season on three consecutive occasions, as well as being named in the EvoStik team of the season in 2016 and 2017.

#### 20 Shaun Densmore

Shaun is the longest-serving player on Alty's books, having signed for the Robins on a one-month contract all the way back in September 2008! Despite a series of injuries, he has amassed well over 350 appearances playing mostly at right back, but also at left back and in midfield, Shaun has stuck with the club through four relegations and three promotions. At the age of 29, he has never made a senior competitive appearance for a club other than Altrincham.

Before joining Alty, Shaun was with Everton's academy. His father Peter also played for Altrincham in the 1980s.

#### 25 Toby Mullarkey

Toby signed for Altrincham from Nantwich Town in May 2019.

#### 4 Ritchie Sutton

Richie joined Altrincham in the 2019/20 post season after leaving Morecambe in June 2020. He can operate as a centre -back or a full-back.

Ritchie began his career at Crewe Alexandra, and while he did not play for them, he did enjoy loan spells at fellow Non-League sides Leek Town and Stafford Rangers. He left Crewe in 2007 and signed with Northwich Victoria before stints at Halifax Town and Nantwich Town.

After a season with Port Vale, Sutton moved on to Mansfield Town and won the National League title with them in

2012/13, followed by their Player of the Season award in 2014/15.

Ritchie signed for Tranmere Rovers in May 2015, and was loaned out to Barrow in March 2016. He was part of the Tranmere squad that guided the club back to the Football League in 2018. After a stint at Morecambe he found himself a Robin, ready to contribute his wealth of experience and ability to their first season back on the National stage.

#### 10 Josh Hancock

Attacking midfielder Josh followed Phil Parkinson to the club from Nantwich. He began the season by scoring four goals in the first six games and provided good competition for Jordan Hulme for the coveted position of top goal scorer.

Josh began his career in Nantwich's youth team before playing for Winsford United and Witton Albion. He later had a spell with AFC Telford before returning to Witton. He then played for Salford City before joining Nantwich once again.

#### 30 Simon Richman

Simon is a hardworking and powerful midfielder who joined the club in the summer of 2011 as one of Lee Sinnott's first signings. Although mainly a central midfielder, he has sometimes been deployed on the right side either in midfield or defence. Throughout his time with the Robins, Simon has always been one of the fittest and most determined players at the club.

Simon began his career in the Football League with Port Vale, making 48 appearances between League One and League Two. In 2008-09 he was Vale's young player of the season. Following his departure from Vale, he had a brief spell with Worcester City before joining Alty. He has also represented the Great Britain Universities' side, helping them to a silver medal in the World Games in 2013.

#### 8 Sean Williams

Midfielder Sean is in his second spell with Alty, having spent a season with the Robins in the Conference Premier under Lee Sinnott in 2014. Hard working and tough tackling, Sean showed his ability whilst playing for Alty's title rivals Warrington Town last season

Prior to his initial spell at Altrincham, Sean had played for Stockport County, Vauxhall Motors, Hyde, Skelmersdale United, Halifax Town and Colwyn Bay. After being released, he signed for Hednesford, then joined AFC Telford before playing for Warrington.



#### 11 Yusifu Ceesay

Pacey forward Ceesay joined Alty on loan from Blackpool in February 2019. Fast, strong and skilful, Barcelona born Ceesay quickly demonstrated his ability to the Alty faithful.

After beginning his career with Sporting Khalsa, Ceesay joined Alvechurch before earning a big move to Blackpool. Loan spells followed with Nuneaton, Boston and Telford prior to his joining the Robins.

Yusifu then rejoined Alty for a second loan spell the following season, 2019/20. His second spell on loan was cut short following successive hamstring injuries.

Yusifu signed full terms for Altrincham in the 2019/20 post season, joining officially in August 2020 ahead of the 2020/21 season.

#### 23 Tom Peers

Forward Tom joined Alty in 2017 and established himself as something of a "super sub" often coming off the bench to score. He scored 11 times in his first season and provided an extra option on the wing or up front for the Robins.

Tom began his career with Chester City, progressing from the youth team to the first team before gaining experience during spells on loan at 1874 Northwich, Marine, Salford City and Hednesford. Following his departure from Chester, he joined Hednesford before moving on to AFC Telford. Later, he played for Warrington and Droylsden before joining Nantwich. He spent the summer of 2018 on loan from Alty to American side New Orleans Jesters.

# SERAP L.D.A.YUSSON AFTA

#### 9 Joe Piggott

Hard-working striker Piggott joined Alty on loan from Wigan Athletic in February 2019. He scored a hattrick shortly after joining, in a 6-0 win over Curzon Ashton.

Joe began his career in the academy systems at Everton and Rochdale, before then spending time in

Scotland with Dundee, followed by a short spell with Warrington Town. He made his League debut whilst on loan at Morecambe in 2018.

#### **Recent History**

In 2020-21 Altrincham FC play in the Vanarama National League, following promotion from the National League North, via the play-offs, at the end of the 2019-20 campaign.

Before that Altrincham FC had spent a total of 28 seasons at the national level (Step One) of non-League football in four spells at that level.

In 2016 they had suffered their latest relegation from Step One and this was followed by an immediate relegation to Step Three the following season. However, the appointment of manager Phil Parkinson and his assistant Neil Sorvel had secured the NPL title in 2018 and an unsuccessful play-off place in 2019 before promotion in 2020.

The Club continues to operate as a part-time team.

Historically, Altrincham had been founder members of the Alliance (forerunner of the Football Conference) from its inception in 1979 until they were relegated in 1997. In fact they won the Alliance in its first two seasons, only being denied elevation to the Football League by the vagaries of the re-election system in place at that time (1980 and 1981).





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# THE 12TH MAN

Name: Darren Shaw

Date and place of birth: 26 January, 1971, Aldershot

**Occupation:** Postman

First Shots match attended: 8 March, 1978, Aldershot 3 Wimbledon 1

**Favourite games:** Fourth division play-off final, second leg 25th May 1987 – Wolves O Aldershot 1 and 22 August 1992 – Aldershot Town 4 Clapton 2

Favourite season: 1992-93 – just great fun

**Biggest disappointment**: Too many to mention, quite a few of them

against Shrewsbury

Favourite players: Steve Claridge, Mark Butler and Gary Abbott - Got to

love a goalscorer

Wish for the future: For fans to be back in grounds as soon as possible





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 Darren? 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 were on the front cover of the FA Trophy quarter final programme. Again, if you'd like to be a programme sponsor, contact Mark Butler on the email address above and he can help you out.



THE BIG PICTURE





# FUN WITH TI

#### SPOT THE BALL

Can you find the names of four former Shots defenders in our wordsearch?

CHEWINS HERD CHARLES BAKER





# HAT-TRICK QUIZ

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

- 1 Which former Australian international cricketer has been a shareholder at Altrincham?
- 2 Which Jersey-born player scored for Aldershot Town in the 2:2 draw away to Crawley on this day in 2012?
- 3 Who took over as manager at Sheffield Wednesday last week?





#### WHO AM I?



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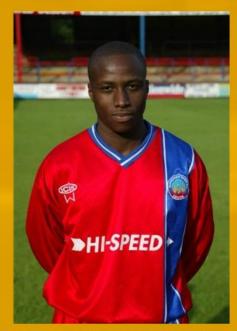
Wordsearch solution

1 Ricky Ponting
2 Peter Vincenti
3 Darren Moore
Victory Park, Chorley
Who am 1?
Sport the Ball

Hat-Trick Quiz

NASWERS





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!

#### Roscoe D'Sane v Canvey Island

Tuesday 15 April 2003

Canvey Island 0 - 1 Aldershot Town

Goalscorer: Roscoe D'Sane

Ryman League Premier

Attendance: 3,553

On a spring evening just on 18 years ago, there was a huge movement of football supporters from Hampshire, along the M25 and into Essex and Canvey Island. Was it for a day out at the seaside – no, it most definitely was not! The reason the best part of 3,000

Aldershot Town FC supporters were making the hourand-a-half trip to the east coast was to watch their team face up in one of the biggest matches so far in Aldershot Town's 11-year history. Riding high at the top of the Ryman League Premier and six points clear of their nearest challengers, the Shots were looking to gain promotion to the top flight of non-league football under the management of Terry Brown, and this game was key - Canvey Island were the Shots' closest rivals and a win for the The Islanders would bring them to just three points behind their visitors. Defeat for the hosts, of course, with only a few matches left to play before season's end, would see Aldershot Town very much in the box seat for that single promotion place, hence the huge amount of interest from both sets of supporters.

Indeed, the sheer amount of supporters caused a bit of a problem – in order to get them all into the ground, kick-off was delayed by fifteen minutes – eventually though, the Park Ground was filled and play could commence. And in what was almost certainly always going to be an extremely tight game, the match, and in essence the eventual Championship of the whole division, was decided by just a single goal, scored in the first half by Roscoe D'Sane from the penalty spot after he raced into the hosts' 18-yard box between two defenders and was tripped. Rising from this foul, Roscoe stepped up to put away his seventh penalty of the season and sent the travelling support wild with delight.



D'Sane had become a popular figure at the Recreation Ground since his arrival the previous summer from Woking, signed by Brown who had seen the former Crystal Palace trainee's potential as he scored five goals in 16 games for the Cards. He'd made his debut at the beginning of September in a win away to Enfield and just six days later scored his first goal in the red and blue - a 2:1 win at Maidenhead United. That goal was to signal to the Shots' faithful just what Roscoe could do and he went on to score another 17 throughout that dramatic and triumphant 2002-03 season, his reliability from the spot helping boost what was an innate ability to score goals and excite fans his pace was something to behold! He scored five braces, one of which was a duo of spot-kicks and made 46 starts for the Shots as Terry Brown led his men

towards the Ryman League Premier title and a fourth Hampshire Senior Cup win.

Although the title was not secured on that April evening in Essex, Roscoe's goal and the three points took the Shots to the very edge of promotion – the title was secured two games later, on Easter Monday away to Sutton United. A 1:1 draw and a point was enough – appropriately Roscoe was the scorer of yet another majorly important goal.

D'Sane remained with the Shots in the following season, this time

making over 50 appearances and scoring 27 goals in that first, amazing season for Aldershot Town in the Nationwide Conference. He played in the play-off final defeat to Shrewsbury and with the Club now deciding to go full-time, was back in the squad for the 2004-05 season. Sadly this was only to see a cameo role for Roscoe in this second campaign in the non-league's highest level. While playing in a game at Scarborough in October he injured both knees, later diagnosed as tendonitis and despite a huge battle for fitness which lasted over 17 months, he never played for the Shots again. It was a cruel end to what had been a fantastic time for him in Hampshire – even in that final season where Roscoe made only seven appearances, he still scored three goals, one of which was a penalty - his 14th and final spot-kick for Aldershot Town.

Roscoe did eventually recover to get back to playing the game he loved and went on to turn out for Terry Brown again, now manager at AFC Wimbledon, Accrington Stanley (where he was able to fulfil his wish to play in the Football League) and Torquay United, stepping out onto the pitch beside his former Shots strike partner, Tim Sills.

But it is wearing the red and blue that Roscoe is of course best remembered by Aldershot Town supporters, along with scoring that penalty at Canvey Island. Massive game against promotion rivals, huge travelling support, six-pointer game – that goal was most definitely golden...

**Words by Victoria Rogers** 



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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 Tue 27 Oct	Woking Toman United	FAC 4Q VNL	L 1-2 L 1-4	N/A N/A	N/A N/A	N/A 17			>>>>	55555			>>>		1	<		>>
Sat 7 Nov	Torquay United Notts County	VNL	W 1-0	N/A	N/A	13			4222								1>	
Sat 14 Nov	Altrincham	VNL	W 2-1	N/A	N/A	11							<			<b>«1</b>		
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	<b>&gt;&gt;</b>	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	>		<
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Unused Sub BOLD NUMBER Goal(s) Scored \*\* Lost 43 on Penalties

Started Match

Used Sub

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**OUR PARTNERS** 



FARNBOROUGH AIRPORT







#### **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	Alfy Whittingham
13	Ryan Hall
14	Joel Nouble
15	Jermaine Anderson
16	
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



Saturday 20 March 2021

Kick-Off 3pm

Vanarama National League



#### **ALTRINCHAM**

Manager: Phil Parkinson

1	Tony Thompson
2	Andy White
3	Connor Hampson
4	Ritchie Sutton
5	Tom Hannigan
6	Jake Moult
7	Dan Mooney
8	Sean Williams
9	Joe Piggott
10	Josh Hancock
11	Yusifu Ceesay
12	Curtis Miller
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15	Matty Kosylo
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19	Regan Ogle
20	Shaun Densmore
21	Matt Gould
23	Tom Peers
24	Joel Senior
25	Toby Mullarkey
28	Byron Harrison
30	Simon Richman
33	Montel Gibson
34	Ryan Colclough
35	Yoan Zouma

#### MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee: Jacob Miles
Assistant: Marc Meeten
Assistant: Robert Evans
Fourth Official: Craig Green



#### @OfficialShots

AldershotTownFC

You Tube

AldershotTown1992

#### **TODAY'S FIXTURES**

Aldershot Town vs Altrincham
Boreham Wood vs Torquay United
Bromley vs Barnet
FC Halifax Town vs Solihull Moors
Hartlepool United vs Eastleigh
King's Lynn Town vs Sutton United
Maidenhead United vs Chesterfield
Stockport County vs Dagenham & Redbridge
Wrexham vs Weymouth
Yeovil Town vs Woking

#### **LEAGUE TABLE**

	P	GD	PTS
Sutton United	24	21	50
Hartlepool United	27	11	48
Torquay United	25	21	47
Stockport County	26	15	43
Wrexham	27	9	43
Notts County	23	10	38
Eastleigh	25	7	38
Bromley	25	9	37
FC Halifax Town	25	9	37
Boreham Wood	27	4	37
Altrincham	28	-3	37
Chesterfield	23	11	36
YeovilTown	27	-2	35
Aldershot Town	24	1	34
Maidenhead Utd	23	-1	33
Dagenham & Red	26	-8	33
Solihull Moors	24	-2	32
Woking	24	1	30
Wealdstone	25	-17	29
Weymouth	25	-13	23
King's Lynn Town	24	-19	23
Barnet	24	-41	12
Dover Athletic	15	-23	10