# HARPENDEN

# **v LONDON LIONS**



Spartan South Midlands League Premier Division 3pm Saturday, November 25, 2023





HARPENDEN TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB Founded 1891

#### **CHAIRMAN**

Roman Motyczak 07971 026749 rm@ptrec.com

#### **CLUB SECRETARY**

Stephen Hartnup 07796 955197 stephen@hartnup.com

#### **FIXTURE SECRETARY**

Gareth Waldram gazzerw1@virginmedia.com

MANAGER Micky Nathan

### ASSISTANT MANAGER

Steve O'Reilly

## FIRST TEAM COACH

Rob Swan

#### COACHES

Ivan Arapov Noah Horwood James Ouston (GK)

**TWITTER** @Harpenden\_Town

INSTAGRAM @harpenden\_town\_fc





# Good afternoon and welcome

Eleven weeks ago we welcomed spectators back to Rothamsted Park after a six-month absence while the new pitch was laid and the ground was refurbished over the spring and summer.

The transformation that awaited visitors that hot, sunny September afternoon was the culmination of years' of work by our chairman Roman Motyczak and an army of volunteers.

The team more than matched the occasion too, beating our local rivals Dunstable Town 4-0. When the final whistle blew, we knew we were well and truly home.

The improvements have given us a ground fit for Step 4 football and a fantastic foundation for the next stage in the club's development. The stepped terracing and covered standing offer better views and more shelter from the elements and hopefully you agree it's made for a better matchday experience.

The benefits of the new all-weather surface are already apparent. Our teams can train on it without fear of compromising the pitch for matchdays, the ground can accommodate the Harpenden Colts, and it can be rented out too.

As a result, we can continue to build a hub for players and football supporters in the town and surrounding area.

And, as we saw last Saturday when our trip to Cockfosters was postponed following persistent overnight rain which lasted until lunchtime, we are not at the mercy of the weather in the same way many other non-league clubs are.

#### HONOURS

Herts County League Western Division champions 1910-11, 1911-12, 1920-21

Herts County League champions 1950-51, 1952-53, 1954-55

South Midlands League champions 1961-62, 1964-65

South Midlands League Division One champions 1989-90

Spartan South Midlands League Premier Division Cup 2017-18

Herts Charity Shield 1967-68



The pitch and the ground are huge assets to the club and the town and so we want to take good care of our home. Please help us by resisting the temptation to run on the pitch – we want to preserve its quality and lifespan so it serves not just our first team, women's team and the development teams who grace it, but also the hundreds of Harpenden Colts youngsters who'll play on it for years to come.

The pitch will be well used by the first team over the coming weeks. There are another five home games before New Year's Day. Next Saturday (December 2) we face league pace-setters Real Bedford, which is sure to be a stern test for Micky Nathan's coaching staff and the players, but one to be relished.

Then we welcome Stansted (December 9), Cockfosters (December 16), our close neighbours Colney Heath (December 27), and Milton Keynes Irish (December 30).

With the Cockfosters game postponed last Saturday, we're back in action for the first time since the penalty shoot-out victory over St Panteleimon in the Gladwish Challenge Trophy. Harpenden led twice through James Ewington and Archie Locke and arguably deserved to win a fiercely competitive match in 90 minutes, but it ended 2-2 and went to penalties.

Eman Olajide made a fantastic stop from the spot giving Kyle Rahho the opportunity to convert the winning kick, which he did with assurance. Our reward is a trip to Potton United in the next round in January.

We can't sign off without mentioning the terrific achievement by Harpenden Town Women to reach the first round proper of the FA Cup. A huge crowd of around 500 flocked to Rothamsted Park to see the clash with Luton Town earlier this month. Although the Hatters won 3-0, it took them until deep into the second half to earn some breathing space.

Finally, a very warm welcome to the visiting players, management, officials and supporters from London Lions. We had a very enjoyable evening at Rowley Lane at the start of the season – read on over the page for more on that match – and hopefully this afternoon's encounter will be as entertaining.

Please make good use of the facilities. The bar is well stocked and St Burgers, based in The Portland Arms, do great burgers, hot dogs and chips. Enjoy the game!



# WELCOME TO ROTHAMSTED PARK LONDON LIONS



#### HONOURS

Spartan South Midlands League Division One 2012-13 Spartan South Midlands League Division One Cup 2017-18 Spartan South Midlands League Spring Cup 2020-21 Anagram Records Trophy (Capital Counties Trophy) 2015-16 Herts FA Senior Centenary Trophy 2006-07, 2010-11, 2016-17, 2018-19 Herts Senior County League Premier Division 2009-10, 2016-17 Herts Senior County League Division One 1999-00 Aubrey Cup 2016-17

Manager: Andrew Landesberg Assistant: Darren Yarlett Coach: Steve Grenfell Physio: Peter Shepherd Home kit: White and blue Away kit: All grey

In the summer of 1995, the players and officials of Maccabi Association London (MAL) decided that they had reached the limits of Sunday football and that a new challenge was required. The Hertfordshire Senior County League was a popular choice, and the club made its debut in the 1995-96 season under the new name of MALEX.

The club finished in the top seven in each of its first four seasons, narrowly missing out on promotion from Division One. In the summer of 1999 the management structure was revised and the club changed its name to London Maccabi Lions, retaining its all-Jewish status.

Under the management of Bobby Fisher and Adam Solomons the Lions lost only three league games in the 1999-00 season, winning the title and promotion as well as reaching the semi-final of the Aubrey Cup.

Over the next nine years, the club established itself as a force in the Herts Senior County League Premier Division, finishing third in 2003-04 and second in 2008-09 before finally winning the title the following year under the management of Tony Gold and Steve Grenfell. The Lions also beat Metropolitan Police to win the Herts Centenary Trophy in 2007.

After a couple of seasons in the Spartan South Midlands League Division One, the Lions were on up again, winning the title and promotion to the Premier Division in 2012-13. They also made their debut in the FA Cup, beating Clapton 4-0.

However, a number of players left after winning promotion and the team struggled. They were relegated for the first time in 2013-14 and after steadying the ship on their return to Division One decided to drop down to the Herts County League in 2015 in order to rebuild.

Manager Andy Landesberg promoted a new generation of players and the majority of the team that won the Anagram Records Trophy in 2016 had come through the club's extensive youth system. The following year the club captured a treble of Herts Senior County League title, Herts Centenary Trophy and the Aubrey Cup. The league title earned a return to the Spartan South Midlands League where they finished xixth in Division One two seasons running before Covid stopped play. They also won the Division One Cup (2018) and Herts Centenary Trophy (2019).

Reassigned to the Combined Counties League Division One in the summer of 2021, the Lions made an immediate impact, winning the title and gaining promotion to Step 5. Last season's 11th place finish was followed by a transfer back to the Spartan South Midlands League Premier League.



If this afternoon's game is anything like the reverse fixture at London Lions' Rowley Lane ground in August, we're in for a treat.

On a deceptively chilly summer's evening the two teams played out a red-hot 4-4 draw.

Harpenden took an early lead when Spencer O'Leary fired home from outside the area, only for the hosts to hit back with a quick leveller.

The rest of the first half was a fiery affair but there were no further goals until just after the break, when the home side went ahead.

This time it was Harps' turn to hit back quickly, with Dan Palmer turning home a cross at the far post to level the scores.

Harpenden looked set to push on for the three points but it was the Lions who scored

twice to leave the visitors with a mountain to climb. Trailing 4-2 with just 20 minutes left it looked as if the points were slipping away but as the clock ticked down the Harps began to throw caution to the wind.

On 86 minutes, substitute Harry Andic made an immediate impact, scoring within a few minutes of coming on.

With plenty of injury time added on, the green and gold shirts flooded forward, winning set-pieces and packing the Lions box. In the 10th minute of stoppage time Harps won another set-piece. Goalkeeper Alex Desmond went up and in the ensuing chaos Rhys Monaghan (pictured) forced the ball over the line to earn a deserved point – albeit one that had looked unlikely at one stage – and sparking wild celebrations.

## London Lions The past 10 seasons

Season	League	Step	Position	
2013-14	Spartan South Midlands League Premier Division	5	22nd / 22	relegated
2014-15	Spartan South Midlands League Division One	6	17th / 21	transferred
2015-16	Herts Senior County League Premier Division	7	5th / 17	
2016-17	Herts Senior County League Premier Division	7	st /  6	promoted
2017-18	Spartan South Midlands League Division One	6	6th / 20	
2018-19	Spartan South Midlands League Division One	6	6th / 20	
2019-20	Spartan South Midlands League Division One	6	_	abandoned
2020-21	Spartan South Midlands League Division One	6	_	abandoned
2021-22	Combined Counties Division One	6	st / 2	promoted
2022-23	Combined Counties Premier Division North	5	th / 20	transferred
Source: Foo	otball Club History Database fchd.info			
	2013-14 2014-15 2015-16 2016-17 2017-18 2018-19 2019-20 2020-21 2020-21 2021-22 2022-23	<ul> <li>2013-14 Spartan South Midlands League Premier Division</li> <li>2014-15 Spartan South Midlands League Division One</li> <li>2015-16 Herts Senior County League Premier Division</li> <li>2016-17 Herts Senior County League Premier Division</li> <li>2017-18 Spartan South Midlands League Division One</li> <li>2018-19 Spartan South Midlands League Division One</li> <li>2019-20 Spartan South Midlands League Division One</li> <li>2020-21 Spartan South Midlands League Division One</li> <li>2021-22 Combined Counties Division One</li> </ul>	2013-14Spartan South Midlands League Premier Division52014-15Spartan South Midlands League Division One62015-16Herts Senior County League Premier Division72016-17Herts Senior County League Premier Division72017-18Spartan South Midlands League Division One62018-19Spartan South Midlands League Division One62019-20Spartan South Midlands League Division One62020-21Spartan South Midlands League Division One62021-22Combined Counties Division One62022-23Combined Counties Premier Division North5	2013-14Spartan South Midlands League Premier Division522nd / 222014-15Spartan South Midlands League Division One617th / 212015-16Herts Senior County League Premier Division75th / 172016-17Herts Senior County League Premier Division71st / 162017-18Spartan South Midlands League Division One66th / 202018-19Spartan South Midlands League Division One66th / 202019-20Spartan South Midlands League Division One6-2020-21Spartan South Midlands League Division One6-2021-22Combined Counties Division One61st / 212022-23Combined Counties Premier Division North511th / 20

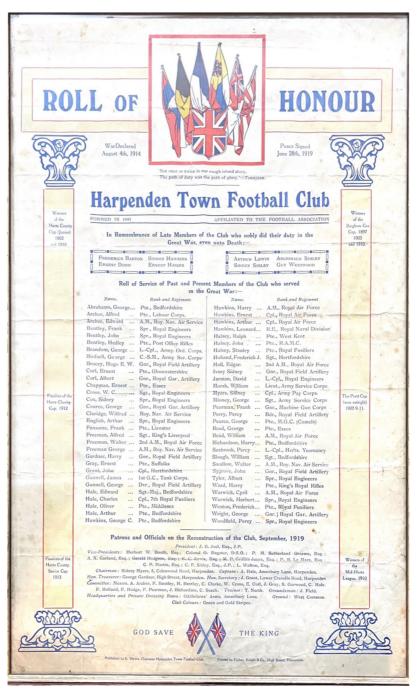


Kyle Rahho gets a header on target during our meeting with London Lions. Photo by Freddie Clark

## Harpenden Town The past 21 seasons

Season	League	Step	Position	
2002-03	Spartan South Midlands League Division One	6	2nd / 19	promoted
2003-04	Spartan South Midlands League Premier Division	5	14th / 19	
2004-05	Spartan South Midlands League Premier Division	5	I 5th / 20	
2005-06	Spartan South Midlands League Premier Division	5	20th / 20	relegated
2006-07	Spartan South Midlands League Division One	6	2th /  6	
2007-08	Spartan South Midlands League Division One	6	16th / 19	
2008-09	Spartan South Midlands League Division One	6	8th / 21	
2009-10	Spartan South Midlands League Division One	6	2th / 2	
2010-11	Spartan South Midlands League Division One	6	7th / 21	
2011-12	Spartan South Midlands League Division One	6	5th / 22	
2012-13	Spartan South Midlands League Division One	6	7th / 21	
20 3- 4	Spartan South Midlands League Division One	6	8th / 20	
2014-15	Spartan South Midlands League Division One	6	6th / 21	
2015-16	Spartan South Midlands League Division One	6	4th / 20	
2016-17	Spartan South Midlands League Division One	6	2nd / 21	promoted
2017-18	Spartan South Midlands League Premier Division		3rd / 21	
2018-19	Spartan South Midlands League Premier Division		14th / 20	
2019-20	Spartan South Midlands League Premier Division		_	abandoned
2020-21	Spartan South Midlands League Premier Division		_	abandoned
2021-22	Spartan South Midlands League Premier Division		5th / 20	
2022-23	Spartan South Midlands League Premier Division	5	th / 20	
Source: Fo	otball Club History Database fchd.info			





Our last first team league fixture was a goalless draw at Potton United on November 11, Remembrance Day. Recently our chairman Roman unearthed this poster. It was made to commemorate the Armistice and lists the Harpenden Town players and members who served in the First World War, and those who lost their lives.



# **GREEN&GOLD** YOU'VE EARNED YOUR STRIPES... NOW GET YOUR SHIRT AT KITLOCKER

kitlocker.com/harpendentownfc

# 2023-24 results & fixtures

# Spartan South Midlands League Premier Division August

Tue I Sat I2 Wed I6 Sat 26 Tue 29 Septem	Tring Town Shefford Town & Campton London Lions St Panteleimon Leverstock Green	A A A A	-  4-2 4-4 3-2 0-2	37 9  60 30  18	Anthony (pen) Younger 2, Oluwatoyin, Gleeson O'Leary, Palmer, Andic, Monaghan Palmer, Shuttlewood, og
Sat 9	Dunstable Town	Н	4-0	427	Ewington 2, Gleeson, O'Leary
Tue 12	Potton United	н	2-1	127	Anthony, Locke
Sat 16	Biggleswade United FC Romania	Н	1-3 2-1	169 167	Ewington Playminht Eitzgemeld
Sat 30 Octobe		Н	2-1	107	Plowright, Fitzgerald
Sat 7	St Panteleimon	н	0-1	151	
Tue 17	Crawley Green	А	3-4	40	Gleeson 2, Riley
Sat 28	Arlesey Town	H	2-2	131	Ewington, Rahho
Novem	•	•••			
Sat 4	Leverstock Green	н	3-I	201	Ewington, Locke, og
Sat	Potton United	А	0-0	101	
Sat 25	London Lions	н			
Decem	ber				
Sat 2	Real Bedford	н	1		
Sat 9	Stansted	н	1		
Sat 16	Cockfosters	Н	87		THINK
Sat 23	Arlesey Town	А			
Wed 27	Colney Heath	н			FIDOTI
Sat 30	Milton Keynes Irish	н	1		FIRST!
Januar	<b>y</b> Baldock Town	А	1		
Sat 6 Tue 16	Sawbridgeworth Town	A			
Sat 27	Aylesbury Vale Dynamos				BEFORE YOU CURSE
<b>Februa</b>		,,,,			
Sat 3	Stansted	А			
Sat 10	Real Bedford	A			MIND YOUR LANGUAGE
Feb 17	Cockfosters	А			
March					
Sat 2	Aylesbury Vale Dynamos	А			
Tue 6	FC Romania	А			
Sat 9	Tring Athletic	н			
Sat 16	Biggleswade United	А			
Tue 19	Crawley Green	н		and the second second	
Sat 23	Baldock Town	H			Respect
Sat 30	Colney Heath	А		NOAT	

## April

Tue 2	Milton Keynes Irish	А			
Sat 6	Sawbridgeworth Town	н			
Sat 13	Shefford Town & Campto	nΗ			
Sat 20	Dunstable Town	А			
Cup ma	atches				
FA Cup	1				
Aug 8	Stanway Rovers	А	1-3		Machado
FA Vas	e				
Sept 23	Wembley	Н	0-4	127	
Herts (	Charity Shield				
Sept 19	Tring Athletic	А	1-3		Younger
Herts \$	Senior Challenge Cu	р			
Oct 10	Ware	Н	0-4	92	
Gladwi	sh Challenge Trophy	/			
Nov 14	St Panteleimon	H	2-2	65	Ewington, Locke
	won 5-4 on penalties				
Jan 23	Potton United	А			
Premie	r Division Cup				
Dec 12	Cockfosters	А			
Pre	mier Divisio	n			

#### W

		Ρ	$\sim$	D	L	F	А	Pts
1	Real Bedford	15	13			56		40
2	Milton Keynes Irish	15	12	2	- 1	51	10	38
3	FC Romania	17	10	3	4	45	24	33
4	St Panteleimon	15	10	3	2	35	16	33
5	Leverstock Green	17	10	2	5	37	30	32
6	Biggleswade United	16	8	3	5	39	35	27
7	Harpenden Town	14	6	4	4	29	24	22
8	Cockfosters	15	5	6	4	32	26	21
9	London Lions	16	5	5	6	33	35	20
10	Potton United	15	6	2	7	21	28	20
	Dunstable Town	15	5	4	6	27	28	19
12	BaldockTown	18	7		10	38	45	19*
13	Tring Athletic	16	5	4	7	24	32	19
14	Aylesbury Vale Dynamos	15	5	2	8	25	38	17
15	Colney Heath	15	4	2	9	18	31	14
16	Stansted	13	3	3	7	18	29	12
17	Crawley Green	16	3	3	10	22	39	12
18	Shefford Town & Campton	14	3	3	8	20	43	12
19	Arlesey Town	15	3	3	9	13	37	12
20	Sawbridgeworth Town	4	0	4	10	14	36	4
				*	Three	point	s dedi	ucted

# HARPENDEN TOWN

Manager: Micky Nathan Colours: Green and gold

Eman Olajide (GK) George Nicol (GK) **Jake Collins Conor Clarke** Archie Locke **Daniel Palmer Joshua Rodrigues Ben Spranger** Lewis Williams Joshua Kassaye **David Keenleyside** Spencer O'Leary **Ryan Plowright** Kyle Rahho Harry Andic **Elliot Bailey James Ewington Hadley Gleeson** Archie McClelland **Reece Crowter** 

# LONDON LIONS

Manager: Andrew Landesberg Colours: Light grey

Nathan Bloohn (GK)
Jake Rinsler
Benji Weinberger
Adam Lipman
Jamie Cohen
Jack Mordecai
Jake Furman
Max Kyte
Austin Lipman
Liron Mannie
Daniel Creese
Felix Shalom
Adam Arnold
Mikey Perkins
Nathan Schindler
Officials
Chris Howes
Christopher Ball
Ruben Fernandez

# **COMING SOON AT ROTHAMSTED PARK**

## **MEN'S TEAM**

Saturday, December 2 Real Bedford (League) 3pm Saturday, December 9 Stansted (League) 3pm

## WOMEN'S TEAM

Sunday, December 3 Biggleswade United Reds (League) 2pm Sunday, December 10 Histon (League) 2pm