THE OFFICIAL 23/24 MATCHDAY PROGRAMME

# THE MAGPIES




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DIDCOT TOWN

23 SEPTEMBER 2023

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**Directors:** Jaime Cartwright, Shaun Hearn, Cameron Marett, Luke Richards
**Associate Directors:** Sam Bernard, Cameron Dabbs, Karen Symes

**Manager:** Glenn Howes
**Assistant Manager:** James Wood
**Coach:** Brian Churchill
**Goalkeeper Coach:** Steve Dodge
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**U23 Manager:** Brian Churchill
**U23 Ast. Manager** Craig Robinson
**U23 Coach:** Jon Cook
**U23 Goalkeeper Coach:** Paul Gadsby
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**Dorset Senior Cup**
1950–51, 1960–61, 1967–68, 1968–69, 1971–72, 1993–94, 1995–96, 2000–01, 2002–03, 2006–07, 2010–11, 2011–12



# MANAGER'S NOTES

Good afternoon and welcome to the Avenue Stadium for today's game. I'd like to welcome Jamie, his staff and players to the club and wish them the best for the season.

With our programme editor on holiday this week, I am writing this column straight after our game with Hungerford, where we earned a good point on the road.

Bulpitt Lane is a tough place to go with the slope they have there. I was really pleased with our work ethic and in particular how we defended in the second half. In truth, we were disappointed to only be one up at half time as we felt our play was deserving of more.

In the second half they changed their tactics up and went back to front a lot quicker. At every opportunity, whether it was a free-kick or long throw in, both of the centre-halves went up and the midfielders squeezed. It was dogged game, the type where we've historically struggled but the lads stood up incredibly well, never let focus slip and fully deserved to come away with a point. It could have been more as we created a few chances on the counter, but we're happy to come away with a point - and more importantly put in a good performance as we felt, despite the result, we did not perform near to the levels we expect in the Swindon victory.

Of course, making their debut that night were Will, Corby and Jack, who all slotted in seamlessly. All three will add a huge amount of experience to the group, will add leadership on the pitch and will bring a desire and will to win that can only improve us. We faced, as you'd imagine, fierce competition from a number of clubs for their signatures, so I'm delighted they chose to come here.

We will have to let a couple of players go in order to balance the books and that'll play out this week. At the time of writing this, we've just said goodbye to Harvey-Joe and I want to put on record my thanks to him. He's stepped up a couple of levels in joining us and embraced the challenge well and showed great desire and versatility playing in a number of positions. We wish him well.

Cheers, Glenn

# IN TOWN TODAY

In the history of English football the most noteworthy event of 1907 was the death of C.W. Alcock (the administrator who 'invented' the FA Cup). But for a small part of Royal Berkshire a more significant happening occurred when Didcot Village FC and Northbourne Wanderers amalgamated to form Didcot Town Football Club (exactly 50 years after the formation of Sheffield FC).

The first silverware in the club's history was claimed in 1913 when Diddy beat Radley in the North Berks Junior Cup. After four seasons in the Hellenic League, Didcot joined the Metropolitan League in 1957 (where they stayed until 1963) and had some success including reaching the League Cup Final in 1961/62. It was during this time that many famous footballers played against Diddy at Station Road, often representing the likes of Arsenal and West Ham Reserves.

Amongst them a certain Geoff Hurst, who played at least twice at Didcot, something which he later recalled when he was a guest speaker at the Club in 2003.
n 1963 Didcot returned to the Hellenic League where it remained until promotion to the Southern League in 2006. One of the most significant events in the club's 100 years was the move to the impressive new Loop Meadow Stadium. As part of the redevelopment of Didcot town centre, Didcot Town FC were forced to relocate from their old Station Road ground for the start of the 1999/2000 season. The club moved onto the ever growing Ladygrove housing estate, the other side of the railway-line that cuts the town in two, but only a few hundred yards as the crow flies from the old home. Under new manager Stuart Peace Season 2004-2005 ended up as arguably the most successful in the club's history so far following a memorable 3-2 win in the final of the FA Vase at White Hart Lane against pre-tournament favourites AFC Sudbury. This came on the back of the club retaining the League Challenge Cup with a 5-1 win against Carterton.

Didcot came agonizingly close to claiming the treble but failed to win the League by a point despite amassing 97 points and winning 31 of their 42 matches.
After a wait of 53 years the team finally brought the Hellenic League trophy back to Didcot in 2006 and with it the club ensured a move up into the Southern League for the first time. The Berks & Bucks Senior Trophy and the Hellenic League Challenge Cup were also claimed, the latter to make Didcot the first club to win the competition three times in a row.

The League triumph broke all records with Town becoming the first club to reach more than 100 points in a season in the Hellenic League and the average points per game (2.63) gave Didcot the best record of any club at level 5 or above in British football that year.

# MEET THE VISITORS

**Leigh Bedwell:** Been number one between the sticks for Diddy since 2017. Formerly of Swindon Town & Banbury United.

**Tom Chambers:** Seventeen year-old joined as number two for 2023/24. Plays for the Didcot Town Development side in the Hellenic pyramid

**Sam Barder:** Surpassed the 200 appearance mark last season. Key player in midfield, can play right-back

**Cameron McNeill:** Attack-minded left-back who's played a crucial role at the club over the years, since his arrival from North Leigh

**Olly Case:** Newly signed 20 year old centre-back from Southern League Division One side Highworth Town.

**Joe Green:** Greener's been a vital cog over the years. Still only 25 & ever reliable to put a shift in Josh Grant: Procision Oxford graduate. Had dual-registration spells at Milton United & Clanfield

**Jack King:** Club legend. Spent much of career in the EFL, most notably for Preston North End & Stevenage

**Adam Learoyd:** Club captain, stalwart & heart of the backline.

**Taylor Bedwell:** Another promising young defender from the Procision academy. Key figure over the years, unfortunately injured for this season.

**Dan Williamson:** New arrival from Basingstoke in the summer. Experienced right-back at 34.

**Connor Barrett:** Club's top scorer in consecutive seasons. Tricky player who is comfortable out wide & the 'number 10' role

**Harley Giles:** Rolls Royce in midfield. Calm on the ball and high work rate off it.

**James Glover:** Signed from Wantage Town. Last season's Player of the Year. Midfield engine.

**Seth Humphries:** Attacking midfielder with an eye for goal who never stops running. Formerly of Oxford United

**Ciaran Keaney:** Another young midfield maestro to add to the gaffers ranks. Signed this summer

**Andi Noka:** Was ruled out for much of last season with an injury sustained in November. Forward of real quality. Signed from Milton United in 2022

**Ben Putland:** Played for the Oxford University Football Team. Really shone in last season's promotion campaign. Midfielder or centre-back Owen Smith: Seventeen year-old from Procision Academy.

**Robbie Gallagher:** Procision's fox in the box. Only 19 but has a real eye for goal, scoring bags full at youth level

**Patrick Osborne:** Had a great spell on loan from Oxford City last season. Signed permanently in July 2023

**Adam Smith:** Signed from Thame United in November 2022 and scored on his debut. Has scored some vital goals already and will be the main man this year.

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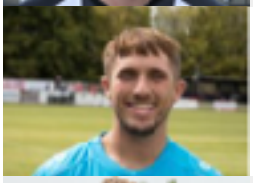
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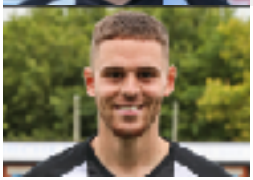
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# GROUND REGULATIONS

**Notice: Entry to the Ground is expressly subject to acceptance by the visitor of these Ground Regulations and the rules and regulations of The Football Association and The Southern Football League in respect to the relevant competition and the laws of the game.**
**Entry to the Ground shall constitute acceptance of the Ground Regulations.**

1. The Club management reserve the right of admission to the Ground. On no account will admission be granted to a person who is subject to a current Exclusion Order.
2. Play cannot be guaranteed to take place on any particular day or at any particular time and the Club management reserve the right to change its advertised fixture without notice or liability.
3. In the event of a match being postponed or abandoned, any refund of the admission charge will be at the sol discretion of the Club management. This is subject to a time limitation, the details of which are obtainable from the club.
4. No alcohol to be brought inside the ground.
5. The club management reserves the right to refuse admission to the Ground, or eject from the Ground, any person who refuses to be searched by any servant of agency of the Club or any Police Officer.
6. Fireworks, flares, smoke canisters, knives, bottles, cans, poles and any article that might be used as a weapon and/or compromise public safety are not permitted within the Ground.
7. The following offences are strictly forbidden. The club reserves the right to prosecute or eject any person who within the club premises is deemed to behave in any of the following ways:
   (I) The throwing of any object onto the field of play -
   (ii) Unauthorised entry on to the field of play, except in an emergency.
   (iii) Being under the influence of alcohol or drugs; making vulgar gestures or statements, using any form of verbal abuse or any form of discrimination; using obscene language; taunting opposition team supporters; or entering reserved areas for opposing supporters. The club may at its discretion bar anyone guilty of such an offence for a period of up to five years.
8. The obstruction of gangways, access ways, exits and entrances, stairways and like places at all times and standing in the seated areas whilst is in progress is strictly forbidden. Any person who persistently contravenes this Regulation will be ejected from the Ground.
9. The climbing of floodlights pylons stands or any other structure within the Ground is strictly forbidden.
10. Unnecessary noise such as that from the use of radio sets and behaviour likely to cause confusion or annoyance to any person is not permitted in any part of the Ground.
11. Only persons specifically authorised in writing by the Club management are permitted to offer for sale or distribute within the ground any newspaper, periodical or other article.
12. Any person found damaging or defacing the property of the Club will be prosecuted.
13. Persons failing to comply with instructions from a Police officer, Steward or other authorised agent of the Club will be ejected from the Ground.
14. **The Club Management reserves the right for its servants, agents and police to remove from the ground any person who does not comply with all these rules and regulations, or whose presence within the ground is, or could be reasonably be construed as constituting a source of danger, nuisance or annoyance to any other person.**

# AVENUE FANS 70

Good afternoon everyone and welcome back for todays clash against visitors Didcot Town. With both myself and our programme editor out of action this week, it's a very minimal column this week.

In fact, I am writing it the same evening as the club have announced the triple signing of players from Poole in Cody Moore, Will Spetch and Jack Dickson. There's no doubt that their experience will be a welcome addition to the squad, so let's make them all feel at home!

I had the pleasure, along with my granddaughter Evie who helps out each match in selling 50/50 tickets along with her mother Helen, to present our chairman with a cheque for £4,000 from the Supporter's Club. Thank you to all of you who contribute to the 50/50 draw and Sponsor a Goal, the funds of which go straight into Glenn's budget.

Enjoy the game and as always.... U.T.M!
Annie



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Thank you to everyone named below who has kindly agreed to support our Sponsor a Goal fundraiser this season.  Your support is greatly appreciated and highly valued.
If anyone wishes to join in at any time during the coming season please see Annie or contact her at avenuefans70@gmail.com.

Sponsorship is **£1.00 or 50p** per goal scored in League matches/F.A cup /F A trophy competitions only.. payment stages over the season.

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A huge thank you to all local companies who entered into this season's patrons draw. **Jurassic Embroidery** (a Quikfast company) were the winners of the top prize and will see their name emblazoned on the from of this season's first team home shirt. **GMS** picked up second prize and will be sponsors of the first team away shirt.

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| | Adam Smith |

**Manager:** Glenn Howes

**Assistant Manager:** James Wood

**Coach:** Brian Churchill

**Manager:** Jamie Healy

**Assistant Manager:** Paul Bedwell

**Coaches** Craig Adey & Jack King**hes**
Craig Adey & Jack King

## Match Officials

**Referee:** Paul Barber

**Assistants:** David Lilly & James Knowles

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