THE OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME OF ARUNDEL FOOTBALL CLUB

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ARUNDEL FC



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CARPENTRY AND TIMBER FRAME

SATURDAY 29th August
KICK OFF: 15:00PM,
Mill Road

PREMIER SPORTS
SOUTHERN COMBINATION FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Welcome to Arundel FC



Welcome to Arundel FC. We're delighted to have you with us and hope your visit is filled with great football and good moments. Whether you're here backing the home side or cheering on our visitors, we hope the match brings excitement, fair play, and plenty of joy for everyone. While you're here, feel free to explore our food and drink options.

Our new tea hut offers warm meals including burgers, sausages, chips, and other tasty choices. The clubhouse is also open with a wide range of drinks and snacks. Our team will greet you with a smile at both counters, making your visit friendly and relaxed from the moment you arrive. Settle in, enjoy the atmosphere, savour the food, and let the football take centre stage. Thank you for joining us at Arundel FC, and we wish you a safe trip home after the game.

Regards,

Arundel FC Committee and Club Volunteers

History OF THE CLUB

Arundel FC, nicknamed The Mullets, is a distinguished non-league football club located in the picturesque town of Arundel, West Sussex, England. Founded in 1889, it is one of the region's oldest continuously operating clubs, boasting a rich heritage and a strong community identity closely tied to the town's history.

Early Years and League Foundations

The club was established in 1889 and became a founder member of the West Sussex League in 1896, participating in its Senior Division for more than fifty years. This era laid the foundation for Arundel's enduring presence in local football. In 1949, the club advanced to the Sussex County League (Division One), setting the stage for future achievements.

- *Golden Era: Back-to-back Sussex County League Division One titles in 1957–58 and 1958–59, each season marked by the team scoring over 100 goals.*
- *Third Division One title and Challenge Cup double in 1986–87.*
- *Promotions as Division Two runners-up in 1966–67, 1976–77, 1983–84, and as champions/runners-up in 1999–2000.*
- *Division Two Cup winners in 1976–77.*
- *Notable cup victories, including the John O'Hara League Cup (2003–04) and Sussex RUR Cup wins (1968–69, 1972–73, 1978–79, 1979–80).*



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History OF THE CLUB

Nationally, Arundel's best FA Cup run saw them reach the second qualifying round several times, most notably in the late 1950s and 1986–87. Their deepest FA Vase journey was to the fourth round in 2002–03.

League Rebranding and the Modern Era

In 2015, the Sussex County League was rebranded as the Southern Combination Football League, with its top division renamed the Premier Division. Arundel initially competed in this division before being relegated to Division One at the end of the 2018–19 season. The club has remained in Division One since, demonstrating resilience through mid-table finishes, and disruptions such as the COVID-19 pandemic, which led to the abandonment of the 2019–20 and 2020–21 seasons.

- *Recent notable finish: 6th place in 2024–25 and 2025–26, reaching the play-off semi-finals 2024–25.*
- *Continued presence in Southern Combination Division One as of the 2025–26 season.*
- *Youth success: Recent achievements include Arundel U18s finishing as runners-up in the 2022–23 season and winning the league in 2025–26, highlighting both investment in youth development and competitive success.*

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History OF THE CLUB

Club Identity and Heritage

The nickname "The Mullets" stems from Arundel's historic association with the River Arun, which is renowned for its abundant grey mullet fish and local river bird. For over two centuries, individuals born within the parish have proudly been referred to as "Mullets". This tradition is mirrored in the club's badge, featuring a mullet fish/bird that symbolizes both local pride and the town's scenic riverside environment.

Home Ground: Mill Road

Arundel FC plays its home matches at Mill Road, widely considered one of the most picturesque grounds in English non-league football. Situated near the historic Arundel Castle—which dates back to 1067—and surrounded by beautiful countryside, the venue features a capacity of approximately 2,200, including 100 seats and 200 covered spaces. The record attendance of 2,200 was established against Chichester City during the 1967–68 season, cementing matchdays as a vital cornerstone of local community life.

Community Involvement and Initiatives

The club actively engages in fundraising via initiatives such as The 100 Club, dedicated fundraising nights, and commercial sponsorships. We also partner and collaborate with the town on festival events and local fundraising efforts to support the community. Furthermore, the club hosts a project called "The Men's Shed," providing a dedicated space for local men to support each other's well-being and mental health while collaborating on projects that benefit the wider community.

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History OF THE CLUB

Youth Development

Our clubs youth programmes encourage teamwork and healthy lifestyles, while social media campaigns using hashtags like #UpTheMullets foster fan engagement. The club faces ongoing challenges, including facility maintenance and balancing tradition with modern requirements, such as upgrading floodlights.

@arundelyouthdevelopment



Legacy

Over its 135+ year history, Arundel FC epitomises the enduring spirit of English non-league football—marked by longevity, local pride, moments of glory, and a profound connection to the town's people and landscape. While they have never reached the professional ranks, their resilience and commitment to community have ensured their continued importance in West Sussex and County League football.

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OUR OPPONENTS HISTORY

Loxwood FC

Loxwood Football Club, nickname “The Magpies” was founded in the village back in 1920. Since its formation, the football club has competed, on and off, in local village football for 75 years but primarily on a non-competitive basis, so there is little in terms of accolades beyond local bragging rights.

However, in 1997 the club re-formed and joined the West Sussex Football League, starting at the bottom of the regional county pyramid in its 5th Division. Over the following 9 years the club progressed through the various regional and county-wide divisions until ultimately they secured promotion from the League’s Premier Division in 2006 and thereby took their place in the Sussex County League and would now compete in Step 7 football for the very first time. It only took two seasons for the Club to make the next step as in 2008 The Magpies secured the 3rd Division title and in the same year reached the final of the Sussex County FA Intermediate Cup, but missed out on a rare double by losing on penalties to Bexhill United.

This next step up provided the Club with the platform to expand beyond its 1st Team and the next couple of years saw it launch both a Reserve Team in the County League as well as form an alliance with a local youth football club to set about securing its on-field future to go with the vast advances that were being made off it. The most notably of these developments at Plaistow Road were the installation of some of the most effective floodlights in the County League and a 100-seater covered stand, thereby providing what is a delightfully atmospheric arena in the middle of the Sussex countryside, particularly on midweek nights. Despite these betterments, the challenge of rising out of the County’s second tier was proving elusive, with 5th and 6th placed finishes being the pinnacle.

The Club weren’t without notable occasions to be cherished during that time, in particular in 2010 when the Club reached the Division 2 Cup Final as well as hosting Brighton & Hove Albion in the County Cup where they only went down 3-1 in front of a packed house under the lights. Barry Hunter magnanimously passed the reins in 2012 enabling him to assume the much-valued role of Club Chairman from Derek Waterman (now our club president) which he could continue to drive his vision for the Club as a whole. From this the Club sparked another period of advancement as firstly the Senior side achieved promotion to the top tier in the County in 2014 as well as winning the Division 2 Cup that they had missed out on 4 years previously.

OUR OPPONENTS HISTORY

Loxwood FC

Later that year came the much cherished launch of Loxwood Youth Football Club which had been a long-desired goal and put in place the foundations for the Club to develop a clear pathway for players to enjoy their football from an early age and provide the opportunity for them to develop all the way through to representing the First Team we now have 200 players from 7-16 including a very strong Girls side of the club who play in competitive Leagues in Sussex.

2015 saw a top 6 finish in the first year of the top division as well as the Club's Reserve Team finally being successful in achieving promotion from the second tier of that section and thereby closing the gap in quality of the opposition the two senior sides were competing against.

This year also saw the development of another key partnership as ex-professional Mark Beard launched his Love The Ball Sussex Academy under the Club's banner and with it bringing in a quality of young player that would see the winning of the U18 County Cup (and its retention in 2016) as well as securing the Southern Youth League South Division title. Due to Dave's growing work commitments, Mark also took over the management of the 1st Team later that year enabling the former to focus on his role as Director of Football overseeing both the Senior and Youth aspects of the Club. This structure led to an exciting new period for the Club and commenced with a 6th place finish in Division One (Now Premier) in 2014/15 followed by 8th in 2015/16 and 6th in 2016/17 (Both Premiership) but with a slight slip to 11th in 2017/18 had pretty firmly established the Club as a real competitor in amongst some sizeable towns

Chairman Barry Hunter stepped down from his role at the end of the 2017/18 season after 15 years of overall service and a 'monumental journey' at the club. Hunter played a key role in that rise having served as a player, first-team manager, director of football and most recently, chairman, in that time. His successor Mark Lacey a local businessman joined the club committee two years previously

OUR OPPONENTS HISTORY

Loxwood FC

Since then it has been a rollercoaster time for the club however we now have a One Club One Future which shows a clear pathway and vision

Our pitch and facilities continue to improve, befitting our Senior Football Club status, and facilities include floodlights, hard spectator standing around the pitch, a 100-seater stand, a covered stand in and a modern clubhouse which have all come because of significant local fundraising, sponsors and grant applications.

The Plaistow Road pitch is now regarded as one of the best playing surfaces in Sussex. Indeed, we regularly host important semi-finals and finals at County level. As part of our development we have replaced the pitch side fencing, added extra toilet facilities, provided new dugouts and additional goals for various age groups.

Effectively, over just a 20 year period, this historic village football club has rapidly evolved into a Senior Football Club that has a reputation for doing things the ‘right’ way.

Loxwood is a club that seeks to provide the best possible environment for all at the Club: our players, coaches, and supporters from every age group. An environment that is conducive to the development of all involved as footballers, people, and members of a team in order to succeed both on and off the pitch in a manner which is sustainable and respectful.

One Club One Future

OUR OPPONENTS HISTORY

Loxwood FC

Honours

• Southern Combination

• Division Three champions 2007–08

• West Sussex League

• Division Two North champions 1988–89, 2001–02

• Division Four Central champions 1994–95, 1999–2000

• Division Five West champions 1998–99

• Centenary Cup winners 2003–04, 2004–05[2]

• Malcolm Simmonds Memorial Cup winners 2004–05[2]

• Tony Kopp Cup winners 1976–77, 1987–88[2]

• Under 18’s

• County Cup winners 2015-16,2016-17

• Southern Youth league champions 2016-17

• Combined Counties Tony Ford under 18 league champions 2018-19

THE TEAMS

VS.

Maciek Kason
Mitch Ricketts
Cal Callaghan
Steve Herbert
Daegan Walsh
Jordan Dudas
Levi Martin
Luke Fenlon
Harrison Mott
Billy Ground
Lewis Hamilton
Liam Brady
Ollie Claydon
Jacob Ebling
Aaron Mott
Ollie Humphries
Sam Pearson
Matt Storm
Devonttee Williams
Joe Futers

Manager: Joss Parsons

Assistant Manager: James Warren

GK Coach: Lewis Powell

Lewis Nason
Joe Hurel
Archie Thorpe
Archie Cooke
Leon Isaac
Lucas Potter
Theo Brown
Jeffery Mahadoo
Jobe Smith
Freddie Johns
Tom O'Connor
Scott Symons
Danny White
Josh Buttle
Declan Spittles
Jake Sinclair
Billy Tomlinson
Kian Price
Wezley Brown
Diego Rodriquez
Scott Knight
Luke Roberts
Connor Robinson
Ollie Pean
Lewis Shivnarain
Mason Massey
Riley Cross
Jamie Maunder
Jake Gadd
Adam Gregory
Lewis Huggins
Jeremy Idem
Hamish Ramsey
Harvey Burgess

MANAGER Ian Matthews
AST MANAGER Graham Shergold
HEAD COACH James Day
COACH Zac Massey
PHYSIO Ciarán Kane

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ARUNDEL FC
A message from our chairman

Dear Arundel FC Supporters,

It's my absolute honour and privilege to welcome you to Mill Road as Chairman of our beloved club.

As we start a brand-new season, I want to extend a heartfelt welcome back to each and every one of you and any new faces.

You are simply the beating heart of Arundel FC that makes all the hard work we've carried out over the closed season worthwhile, headaches and all.

I would like to personally wish the best of luck to our club's hardworking management teams, coaches, and players for their efforts in the pre-season, which is always a hard period with player movement, etc., and for getting us into a good place for the start of the forthcoming 2026-2027 season.

I would like to say a very special thank you to every single person that has tirelessly worked at the club over the summer, both at the ground and our invisible, extremely hardworking committee behind the scenes.

Also, I can't express enough our gratitude to our fantastic sponsors for their generosity. I can say hand on heart, without your financial support and the gifting of materials from suppliers, the club would genuinely have struggled over the summer to improve the facilities as we have - clubhouse, pitch improvements etc.

This club is more than just football to me. In my opinion, it's the pride of our town. I genuinely appreciate the community that supports the 'Mullets', and I love hearing the shared laughter, chants, and cheers around Mill Road on match days. Whether you've been with us for years or are just discovering the magic, you're a part of something truly special at this honest, close, family-orientated football club.

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This season, we're building with purpose and the future:

- *Strengthening our squad with local young talent and seasoned players*
- *Deepening our roots in the community through events, support, and genuine connection. I'm particularly proud that we have already introduced a 'Men in Sheds' group here at the club — a welcoming space for anyone in the community who would like to come along, meet others, share skills, enjoy good company, and find a little escape from loneliness or the everyday stresses of life.*
- *Enhancing matchday experiences to make every visit as enjoyable as possible*

I'd love for you to be loud, proud and support the lads every step of the way, through all the highs and lows. Let's fill the ground, ignite the Arundel FC spirit and make this season truly unforgettable.

Up the Mullets!

Dan Harvey

Chairman, Arundel FC



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