

DORKING 25/26 WANDERERS B



VS
**AFC UCKFIELD
TOWN**

SATURDAY AUGUST 23rd
KICK OFF - 3PM



CHARLIE'S NOTES

Good Afternoon Wanderers,

From myself and on behalf of the management team, players and volunteers, we welcome you to Meadowbank today for our Southern Combination Division One fixture against AFC Uckfield Town.

I would like to extend a warm welcome to the committee, management, players and volunteers from Uckfield travelling over to us for today's game. We hope you enjoy your visit.

It's been a busy beginning to the season, and we're not done yet for the opening month of the campaign with today's game followed by Reigate Priory coming to Meadowbank this Tuesday night, before we travel to Loxwood next Saturday.

These upcoming 3 games provide us with an opportunity to get back on track before the end of the month, after what has been a tough start for us so far in 25/26.

Our home opener against Billingshurst finished 4-4 and stayed true to form which was often demonstrated throughout last season - plenty of goals scored, too many conceded, but an abundance of team spirit and character shown by the boys, who played some flowing football on the day as well. It was pleasing to see new skipper Ted Sullivan score twice in the game, as did the debuting Bruno Dackombe, who has shown his versatility playing from left back across this opening run of games.

We welcomed a few academy graduates and first team players needing early season minutes into the side for our 2-4 victory away at Loxwood FC in the opening round of the Peter Bentley Trophy on Tuesday August 12th, Dackombe grabbing another goal alongside a hat-trick from a clinical Jake Lawrence on the night. Our first game of September on the 2nd will see us visit Midhurst & Easebourne in the next round of the competition.

Since then, we have registered back-to-back 2-0 defeats in the league away to Jarvis Brook and then Oakwood respectively in the past seven days. To have had such domination of play, especially in the Oakwood game, but come away empty handed is very disappointing and we need take the learnings from these defeats quickly and use to them to strengthen us as a group moving forward.

We've spoken to the boys this week about remembering the standards this team has set in recent seasons. Our home form has always been very consistent and we must embrace that fully today and on Tuesday night to get ourselves back on track. AFC Uckfield Town have drawn twice so far, playing one less game than us in the league, and after two close-run encounters last season, we will expect a tough test this afternoon.

Thank you for your continued support - let's push for our first league win of the season this afternoon back on home soil.

Enjoy the game!

Charlie

MEDLEY



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AFC UCKFIELD TOWN

A new chapter for football in Uckfield began in August 2014 after the town's two main senior Clubs agreed a merger. AFC Uckfield Town took their place in Division Two of the Sussex County Football League for the 2014/15 season after the merger of AFC Uckfield and Uckfield Town.

Uckfield Town had a long history, with matches dating back to 1880, and the young pretenders being AFC Uckfield, formerly Wealden FC. The merger provided a promising future for football in Uckfield, with the newly formed Club attracting support in the local community from the East Sussex town. Tom Parker became Chairman of the new Club having been in charge of AFC Uckfield, with former Town Chairman Justin Farrow elected vice-chairman. The new club adopted Uckfield Town's red and black kit as its home colours and AFC Uckfield's Sky and Navy Blue strip the away kit. A new club crest completed the transformation.

Quickly after the merger, the Club achieved the FA Charter status by maximising on its merged resources – and in particular, striving to provide improved facilities to support the development of youth team football in Uckfield.

The Club surpassed all expectations in its first season, with Manager Steve Ives guiding the first team to promotion into the newly formed Southern Combination Football League Premier Division in 2015 where the club has consolidated since despite a number of managerial changes in the years. The Club has also enjoyed a number of cup runs with the highlight during the 2018/19 season when the Club achieved its best showing in FA competition when reached the 2nd qualifying round of the FA Cup and the 4th round of the FA Vase.

The Club continues to aim high and to support our plan, the Club has established (and continues to seek and build) close ties with the local community to provide a family friendly environment, which we hope residents and local businesses in Uckfield will want to get involved in. We are grateful for the support and sponsorship provided and must give particular thanks to our main sponsors Mansell McTaggart estate agents who kindly agreed to extend their kit sponsorship this Summer and supported us with new signage at the ground.

AFC UCKFIELD TOWN

Now running 4 teams, the First and 2nd team play at The Oaks, Old Eastbourne Road in the Southern Combination Football League. Our burgeoning youth section sees our U18's in the Mid-Sussex Youth League, whilst our the newly formed Ladies team will make their debut in the Sussex County Women and Girls Football League, all playing at The Uckfield Victoria Pleasure Ground. As a result, there is now a one stop Club framework that will provide the opportunity for footballers of varying levels across the major leagues in Sussex. There is a strong emphasis on providing a youth player pathway with a partnership agreement with local junior club Uckfield Grasshoppers cemented in the summer of 2021. This is already bearing fruit with young players now a present feature in both of our adult teams and off pitch support coming into Club in terms of coaches and volunteers.

After a Summer of change this is a new era for the club both on and off the pitch with a new influx of Committee members giving a fresh look and approach to our Club proposition. Whilst the First team is now being led by Alex Harris following the departure of Billy Wood. We look forward to watching our young exciting players develop and thrive under the guidance of Alex Harris and his coaching staff.



WANDERERS B

MANAGEMENT

Manager – Charlie Dunne
Head Coach – Simon Ray
Coach – Eric Benedetto
Coach – Will Lonsdale

SQUAD

Sam Allison (GK)
Cameron Sturman (GK)

Rubens Andrade
Bertie Baker
Cristiano Barreca
Leo Bines
Tom Bland
Bruno Dackombe
Donny Daniels
Barney Dowling-Campbell
Brandon Engstrom
Chris Ewan
Donnell Fitzgerald
Luca Fulco
Dillon Grass
Charlie Hardwick
Max Holland
Gabriel Jacks
James McLeod
Noah Moore
Finley Murtagh
Charlie Pepper
Finley Powell
Miguel Rodriguez
Miles Straker
Ted Sullivan
Blaise Weller

AFC UCKFIELD TOWN

MANAGEMENT

Manager – Alex Harris
Coach – Luke Carter
Coach – Nick Bignell

SQUAD

Harry Howes
Alfie Morey
Anthony Gill
Archie Carey
Bailey Mintrim
Ben Morris
Blake Larby
Charlie Purvis
Connor Bradley
Connor Martin
Harley Mason
Jay Kendall
Josh Faber
Khaled Zabadne
Macca Stiles
Malachy Scullion
Ola James
Ollie Fowler
Ollie Thompson
Ryley Tate
Shane Harper
Teddy Baldwin
Torin Seagrove
Tristan Periera
Tyler Pearson