

The Citizen



EMIRATES FA CUP EXTRA PRELIMINARY ROUND REPLAY



| VS |



THE 05/08 19:45

THE RIVERMOOR, RG30 6AY

THE OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME
OF READING CITY FC | 2025/26 ISSUE 1



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05 AUG 2025
19:45 TUE
THE RIVERMOOR



TONIGHT'S OFFICIALS

Referee	Ioannis Christodolou
Linesman	Matthew Barrett
Linesman	Michael Ricketts

CLUB OFFICIALS

Club Chairman	Martin Law
Club Secretary	Chris Gallimore
Club Treasurer	Victoria Pyke
Club Welfare Officer	Nicola Evans
Director of Football Operations & Player Pathway	Sheldon Baptiste
Director of Commercial	Pete Brizio
Marketing, Communications and Community Engagement Lead & Club Inclusion Officer	Ryan Sheehan
Media & Marketing Manager & Club Disability Officer	Liam Williams

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About Us

Reading City Football Club, commonly known as The Cityzens, is a non-profitable, grassroots community-based football club based at the Rivermoor Stadium, located in Scours Lane, Tilehurst, Reading. The club is proudly affiliated with the Berkshire & Buckinghamshire Football Association and is an England Football Accredited Club.

Our formation came as part of Highmoor AFC's 50-year celebration in 2018. Club secretary Chris Gallimore took over the role in 1990 and recruited the now chairman, Martin Law, to become first team manager in 1992. Together, they assembled a strong squad of players, leading to significant success. The club thrived with regular promotions, league and cup doubles, and became the first club to win the current Thames Valley Premier League unbeaten. The reserves are still the only reserve side to win the same Reading Step 7 League.

After winning the league, promotion to the UHlsport Hellenic League in 2012 required moving and playing at Palmer Park. The current location at The Rivermoor was secured in 2018, and after 50 years, it was decided to change the name to Reading City. This decision was not taken lightly; however, the community of Reading yearned for a semi-professional club behind Reading Football Club to represent Reading and give local players the opportunity to play for a Reading-based team as Reading.

The pathway for the club begins with the Sunday morning development centre for 4-6-year-olds and extends through to our First Team. This pathway will become the lifeblood of the club over the coming years.



FA Cup

Second Qualifying Round 2023/24

FA Vase

First Round Proper 2021/22, 2023/24

FA Youth Cup

Second Round Proper 2021/22

TVPL Division Four

Runners Up 2020/21

TVPL Division Three

Runners Up 2022/23

Southern Combination Challenge Cup

Semi-Finalists 2021/22

Champions 2023/24

Berkshire Trophy Centre Intermediate Cup

Semi Finalists 2021/22

Slough Town Junior Cup

Finalists 2022/23

Maidenhead Norfolkian Junior Cup

Semi-Finalists 2022/23

Maidenhead Norfolkian Junior Cup

Finalists 2022/23

Allied Counties Youth Football League

Central Division Champions 2024/25

Subsidiary Cup Semi-Finalists 2024/25

Champions Cup Semi-Finalists 2024/25

Chairman's Welcome Martin Law



Good evening and a very warm welcome to The Rivermoor Stadium for our first matchday of the 2025/26 season.

Tonight, we're delighted to welcome the players, officials and supporters of Cirencester Town for what promises to be another competitive encounter in the Emirates FA Cup Extra Preliminary Round Replay. After a tightly contested first tie, we're expecting another strong challenge, and we know both sides will be going all out to secure their place in the next round of this prestigious competition.

A warm welcome also to tonight's match officials who are officiating this evening's Emirates FA Cup Extra Preliminary Round Replay.

For us at Reading City, tonight marks more than just the start of a new season. It represents a fresh chapter for the club, both on and off the pitch. A huge amount of hard work has gone on behind the scenes over the summer, and we're incredibly proud of the progress that's been made. We've welcomed new additions to the board, strengthening the leadership and strategic direction of the club as we continue to build for long-term success. Across the club structure, we've undertaken a significant rebranding of teams, with a focus on aligning all squads under a shared identity and vision for the future.

We're also thrilled to see the club continuing to grow its reach and its roots in the local community. That includes the launch of our new Sunday team, giving us an exciting new presence in weekend grassroots football and opening up more opportunities for players to represent the badge. On the pitch, we've added new arrivals to the squad who bring talent, hunger and fresh energy and tonight offers many of them their first chance to play under the lights at The Rivermoor. We know they'll do everything they can to give a performance that makes our supporters proud. There's a real sense of momentum building at Reading City. As we begin this journey together, we want to thank you, the fans for your continued support. Whether you've followed us for years or are attending your first game tonight, you are part of the City family, and we're excited for what the season holds.

Enjoy the match, back the boys, and let's create another memorable night under the lights. Come on City!

Letter from the **Gaffer** Simon **Johnson**



Good evening and welcome to the first game of the new season here at the Rivermoor!

Welcome also to the management team, players and officials of Cirencester.

It's been a tough start to the season with a late defeat at an excellent Burnham side where it hurts to lose in the fashion we did. Followed by a below par performance on Saturday.

It's a new group and we are working hard to ensure we can find the right formula to be competitive and achieve what we want to this season.

It's been great to see so many faces and Reading City shirts on the road this season already and we'll need that continued support tonight to get us over the line tonight.

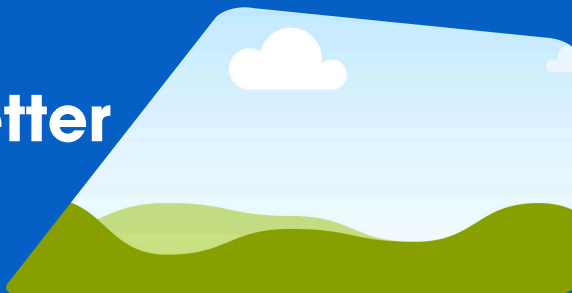
Cup football isn't about the performance, it's only about the result and we'll be looking to kick start our season here tonight with a win.

Together stronger.

Gaffer.

Captain's letter

Stefan Brown



It's a proud moment for me to write to you for the first time as Team Captain and even more special that it comes ahead of our first home game of the season.

Walking out at home tonight means a lot. I know what this club means to so many of you, and I understand the responsibility that comes with wearing the armband. It's a responsibility I don't take lightly and neither do the rest of the lads when they pull on this shirt.

We all know we weren't at the required level at the weekend. We've said it as a group, and we've felt it. It wasn't good enough, and we accept that. But even then, we showed in moments what we can do! The quality, the intent, the desire. Now the challenge is turning those moments into something much more.

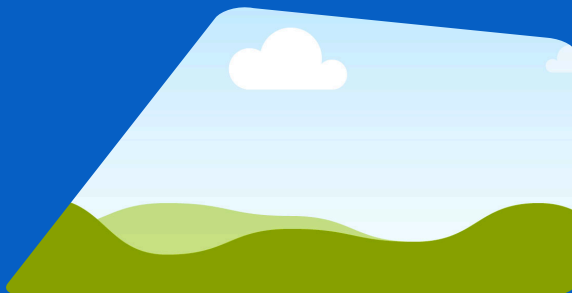
Tonight, we have a chance to put Saturday right by turning them moments into a complete performance. It doesn't have to be pretty it just has to be us. Committed. Together. Determined to make sure we're in the hat for the next round.

This is our home. And for many of us myself included this is our first chance to play in front of you here. We want to make that count. We want you to see a team that fights for everything, that earns your support, and that builds something meaningful starting tonight.

We'll give everything. That's the minimum. And with your backing, we'll go after the result we need.

See you out there.

Club History



Though Reading City FC was officially formed in 2018, our roots stretch back over a century.

Our journey began in the village of Highmoor, Oxfordshire, where local football flourished before evolving into Highmoor FC in 1967.

The club battled through tough times in the '80s before a revival led by Chris Gallimore and Martin Law saw success follow.

In 2001, we merged with Ibis FC founded in 1913 by Prudential Assurance becoming Highmoor Ibis. The merger marked a turning point, with league and cup triumphs including an unbeaten league title in 2003/04 and the Reading Senior Cup win at the Madejski in 2006. After a promotion to the Hellenic League in 2011, we moved to Palmer Park Stadium, enabling progression thanks to improved facilities. In our debut Hellenic season, we earned promotion to the Premier Division and twice finished runners-up.

We entered the FA Cup in 2013/14 and reached the Second Round Qualifying in 2023/24, our best run to date. We've also regularly competed in the FA Vase, reaching the First Round Proper several times. A move to The Rivermoor in 2016 formerly home of Reading Town brought us back to West Reading. The name "Rivermoor" reflects our history (Highmoor) and location (near the River Thames), symbolising our journey and growth. In 2018, we rebranded as Reading City FC, honouring our past while looking to the future.

This move united the legacies of Highmoor, Highmoor Ibis and Reading Town under one banner and brought renewed ambition to be the leading non-league club in Reading. We joined the Combined Counties League Premier Division North in 2021 having previously played in the UHlsport Hellenic League and made history with the first-ever match in the new division. We've since reached play-offs and lifted the Southern Combination Challenge Cup in 2023/24. O

Our Youth Academy, launched in 2013 and rebranded in 2021 in partnership with John Madejski Academy, now boasts over 20 teams and competes in the FA Youth Cup, reaching the Second Round Proper in 2021/22. From Highmoor to The Rivermoor, our story is one of perseverance, pride, and progress and we're just getting started.

OUR STATS

OUR HOME

Since our founding, we have played at The Rivermoor Stadium, located along the river Thames in Tilehurst

OUR GOAL

Continue to advance our first team's performance in the UK football league and foster growth in the club with youth and development squads.

OUR FORM

We finished the 2023/24 Season, with silverware after winning the Southern Combination Challenge Cup.

However, for the second year in a row. 2023/24 also saw us narrowly missed out on promotion after losing in the playoff-semi final.

OUR LEAGUE

Our men's first team currently play in the Combined Counties Football League.

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EMIRATES FA CUP EXTRA PRELIMINARY ROUND

MATCH REPORT



Saturday 5th August

0 Cirencester Town
0 Reading City

The game nearly began with the perfect start for the Cityzens managing to bundle the ball into the back of the Cirencester net after just two minutes however the goal would be ruled out for a clear foul by The City player. The Cityzens would continue to pile the pressure on the Centurions box from a number of long throws in quick succession ultimately resulting in no real threat to Ronnie Newbery's goal. York would be called into action a few moments later holding onto a free kick from Price capping off an electric opening ten minutes with both slides trying to deliver an early blow to their opponents.

The hosts would be forced into an early change as Ethan Rose replaced injured Jayden Stratford. The game was very much being fought and stuck in the midfield with both sides struggling to create any clear chances, instead having to settle for snatches at goal and half chances. City would deliver a corner into the box that Newbery would fumble at the first time of calling before managing to recover and claim the second ball, surviving the scare and redeeming himself.

As we entered the final ten minutes of the first half Cirencester had the best chance of the match so far, coming from a goal kick sent up long and the flick won ahead of the Cityzens backline but the resulting shot for close range would be dragged wide. Moments later the Centurions thought they should have been awarded a penalty but the referee was unmoved by their appeals. Reading City's final chance before the break came from brilliant build up play from Club Captain Adam Cashin-Murray and Joe Pilling resulting in a shot that was unfortunately blasted well over. It was Cirencester however that would have the final chance of the half, a well worked corner would lead to Charlie York diving low to his near post and doing brilliantly to keep hold of the ball to deny any corner or rebound. As Chaz got back to his feet the referee would blow his whistle bringing the first half to a close



HALF TIME: Cirencester Town 0-0 Reading City

The second half opened in much the same fashion as the first half. With a lot of action in the middle of the park with both sides struggling to create clear chances for an opening. There was an second switch for the hosts as Ollie Pitts makes way for Jonty Welch. The best chance of the match for the Cityzens was headed just wide of the post by Palmer after Cashin-Murray did brilliantly to play him behind.

A first change of the afternoon for City saw Ashleigh Artwell come on to bring fresh legs replacing Joe Pilling who had ran himself into the ground. Pressure from the hosts led to York being forced to dive low to his left parrying the ball well wide and away from danger. Cirencester would continue to pile on the pressure creating an opening and beating York with the strike low to the right, however Oliver Bourne was there throwing his body on the line to keep his side level, a fantastic block from the young man.

Another chance for the hosts was sandwiched between two City substitutions with Ben Holder coming on for Club Captain Adam Cashin-Murray and new-signing Riley Denny replacing Mckoy Palmer being made both sides of a dangerous effort from the right hand side from Cirencester's Bennett being blasted into the outer netting much to the Cityzens relief.

As we entered the final ten minutes of this tie in the Extra Preliminary Round, two fantastic blocks would be made by City with Bourne again and Campbell getting their bodies in between the ball and net.

Final substitutions for the match for Reading City saw Tristan Campbell coming off for Jenson Mansel. City would have the final chance of the match with skipper Stefan Brown striking the ball at goal but Newbery was there to clutch the ball to his chest.

After four minutes of stoppage time the referee closed the curtain on proceedings meaning it will have to be a replay at the Rivermoor Stadium to separate these two sides and determine who progresses in the Emirates FA Cup.

FULL-TIME : Cirencester 0-0 Reading City

#City1sts



**Charlie
YORK**



**Jonathan
O'SULLIVAN**

Goalkeepers



**Liam
BAKER**



**Oliver
BOURNE**



**Ellis
COWD**



**Luke
DONVILLE**



**Jay
HERBERT**



**Hamish
THOMSON**

Defenders



**Harrison
BAYLEY**



**Tristan
CAMPBELL**



**Adam
CASHIN-MURRAY**



**Ousman
DARBOE**



**Dan
DAVIES**



**Riley
DENNY**



**Ben
HOLDER**



**Eddie
LAZARCZUK**



**Jenson
MANSEL**



**Mckoy
PALMER**



**Joe
PILLING**



**Joel
VALENTIN**

#CityIsts



**George
ARMSTRONG**



**Ashleigh
ARTWELL**



**Stefan
BROWN**



**Muhamadou
CEESAY**



**Sanchez
PARKES**



**Lucas
TAPLIN**

Forwards

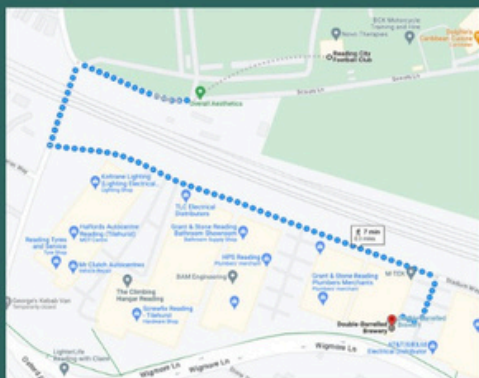
Management

First Team Manager	Simon Johnson
First Team Assistant Manager	Michael Butcher
First Team Assistant Manager	Dave Tarpey
First Team Coach	Kieran Jennings
First Team Coach	Jamie Williams
First Team Coach	Dave Wyeth
First Team Coach	Charlie Wyeth
Physiotherapist	Paige Ryan-Swanson



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Cirencester Town Club History



@CirenTownFC

Founded in October 1889, Cirencester Town FC has a rich and varied footballing history. The club began in the Cheltenham League, where it secured multiple Division One titles in the 1920s and 1950s.

After periods in and out of the Gloucestershire Northern Senior League, Cirencester became a founding member of the Gloucestershire County League in 1968 before moving up to the Hellenic League. The club experienced both promotion and relegation in the 1970s but steadily progressed through the football pyramid.

In the 1990s, the team rose to the Southern League, winning the Hellenic Premier Division in 1995–96 and also lifting the Gloucestershire Senior Cup. The early 2000s saw more success, with promotion to the Southern League Premier Division in 2004.

Cirencester became known as a yo-yo club, bouncing between divisions throughout the 2000s and 2010s. Highlights include winning the Southern League Division One South & West in 2013–14 and claiming a second Gloucestershire Senior Cup in 2014–15.

Despite strong league finishes in 2018–19 and 2021–22, the club narrowly missed out on promotion via the play-offs. Following a 6th-place finish in 2023–24, Cirencester Town FC voluntarily stepped down to the Hellenic League Premier Division to restructure and build for the future.

Squad list

HARLEY ARNOLD

ALFIE BAKER

FINLEY BELL

FRASER BELL

AIDAN BENNETT

JACK FREEMAN

ROSS GABRIEL

JACK HORRELL

ELLIOT KEIGHTLEY

JORDAN MORRIS

JAMES MORTIMER-JONES

RONNIE NEWBERY

CHRISTIAN OLIVER

GEORGE PEARE

OLIVER PITT

KYLE PITTS

HARLIE PRICE

HARRISON REEVES

ETHAN ROSE

KEVIN SAWYER

EDWARD SCOTT

JAYDEN STRATFORD

CHARLIE SUTTON

JESSE THOMPSON

HARRY TITCHENER

JONATHAN WELCH

Manager	JAMES MORTIMER-JONES
Goalkeeping Coach	SCOTT ROSE
Physio	JONNY EVANS
Kit Manager	ROY REED



DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

Dates: Every Sunday
Times: 11:00am til 12:00pm
Address: The Rivermoor Stadium

takes place every Sunday at the club's Rivermoor Stadium, which is also the proud hub of Reading's football community.

If your child is aged 4-8 start them on their journey to excellence today with our Weekly Development Centre. As a club we promote an environment that is safe, fun and inclusive for everyone and therefore welcome players of all abilities.

Our unmatched facilities not only offer the thrill of playing in a real-life stadium but also provide a safe, private area for youngsters taking part and any younger or older siblings who may wish to come along and watch as there's plenty of room for youngsters to run around. We also have ample car parking on-site which comes at no extra cost.

Our Clubhouse will also be open where you'll be able to purchase hot or cold drinks, ice pops and confectionery. We don't offer a hot food menu on Sunday Mornings.

It's Pay as You Play, priced at £3 a session which can be paid in cash on arrival.



OUR HOME - RG30 6AY
THE RIVERMOOR

The Rivermoor is a special stadium where you can participate in our matchday for a reasonable entrance fee. There's a unique atmosphere and charm here, perfect for gatherings with friends or family fun.



THE ELITE CHOICE

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