

# The Cityzen



ISUZU FA VASE SECOND ROUND PROPER



| VS |



SAT

08/11 15:00

THE RIVERMOOR, RG30 6AY

THE OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME  
OF READING CITY FC | 2025/26 ISSUE 10



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**8<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2025**  
**15:00 SATURDAY**  
**THE RIVERMOOR**



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## CLUB OFFICIALS

Club Chairman	Martin Law
Club Secretary	Chris Gallimore
Club Treasurer	Victoria Pyke
Club Welfare Officer	Nicola Evans
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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£200 fan-facing per season including print and installation.

### OFFERS

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£500	£400



# 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



# Letter from the Gaffer

Simon Johnson



Good afternoon everyone and a very warm welcome back to the Rivermoor for today's FA Vase Second Round tie against Erith & Belvedere. I'd like to extend a warm welcome to our visitors, their management team, players, officials and supporters who've made the journey today. The FA Vase is a special competition for clubs like ours, and we're all looking forward to what should be a cracking game of cup football.

Coming into this one, I couldn't be prouder of the lads for the recent run of form. Three league wins on the bounce have given us great momentum, and what's been most pleasing is the variety in the ways we've found to win those games.

The 3-0 win showed our quality and control where we dominated the second half after a poor first half showing, played some brilliant football and looked strong all over the pitch. The 5-1 victory that followed was all about our attacking intent and ruthlessness in front of goal, we took our chances superbly and looked a real threat every time we went forward. And then, most recently, the 1-0 win demonstrated a different side to us, grit, resilience and a willingness to dig deep when the game got tight. Those are the sort of performances that define a team's character, and I think we're starting to show real maturity in how we manage games.

We know today's game will be another tough test. Erith & Belvedere are a good side with plenty of experience at this level, and cup football always brings its own challenges. But we're confident, together, and determined to keep this run going and give our supporters another performance to be proud of.

Unfortunately, we're still missing a few players today. Adam Cashin-Murray and Bobbi Emery remain sidelined through injury, while Mckoy Palmer, Ellis Cowd, Pele Hagger and George Armstrong are all unavailable for selection. It's never easy to be without key players, but the squad has shown great depth and togetherness recently, and I know whoever steps in will give everything for the shirt.

As always, thank you for your fantastic support. It really makes a difference, especially in big cup ties like this one. Let's get behind the boys and make the Rivermoor rocking this afternoon. Enjoy the game!

Up the Citeh!

Gaffer

# Captain's letter

**Stefan Brown**



Welcome back to the Rivermoor!

We return home looking to build on our strong run of form, having won our last three league matches. While we haven't always been at our best, our ability to pick up results regardless is a hallmark of a good side, something that could prove vital as the season progresses.

Those recent victories have given our league ambitions a real boost, and we'll be aiming to carry that momentum into today's match as we look to continue making history in the FA Vase. Our last win in this competition marked a memorable milestone for the club, and we're determined to go one step further and secure our place in the next round.

Having a home fixture is a huge advantage, it gives us the opportunity to perform in front of our fantastic supporters, whose backing makes all the difference. Thank you for your continued support, and let's make today another special day at the Rivermoor.



# 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.

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.

5 promotions from the National League



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# #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**



**Bobbi  
EMERY**



**Ben  
HOLDER**



**Jensen  
MANSEL**



**Mckoy  
PALMER**



**Joe  
PILLING**



**Joel  
VALENTIN**

# #CityIsts



**George  
ARMSTRONG**



**Ashleigh  
ARTWELL**



**Stefan  
BROWN**

Walk  
Heading



**Muhamadou  
CEESAY**



**Pele  
HAGGER**

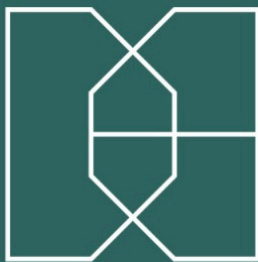


**Emil  
MURSALOV**

Forwards

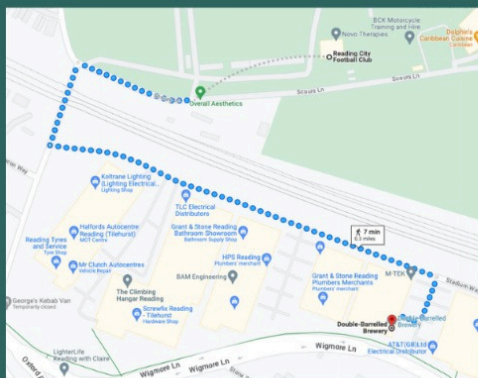
## Management

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	Charlie Wyeth
Physiotherapist	Paige Ryan-Swanson
Director of Football	Dave Wyeth



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## Erith & Belvedere Club History



@BMRFC

Erith & Belvedere Football Club trace their roots back to 1922, when the club was formed following a restructure of Belvedere & District, who had played in the Kent League from 1919 to 1921. The newly established side joined the Kent League Division One for the 1922–23 season and quickly made their mark, reaching the FA Amateur Cup final in 1924, where they were beaten 3–0 by Clapton at The Den, but also lifted the Kent Amateur Cup that same year.

The club enjoyed early success in county competitions and again reached the FA Amateur Cup final in 1937–38, narrowly losing 1–0 to Bromley, once more at The Den. During World War II, Erith & Belvedere competed in the South-East Combination, completing a remarkable treble in 1941–42 by winning the league, League Cup, and Kent Senior Cup.

After the war, the Deres became founder members of the Corinthian League in 1945, capturing the league's Memorial Shield three seasons running between 1947 and 1950. When the Corinthian League disbanded in 1963, the club joined Division One of the Athenian League, earning promotion to the Premier Division in 1971 and claiming the League Cup in 1973–74.

Following a spell back in the Kent League, Erith & Belvedere won the Division One title in 1981–82, securing promotion to the Southern League, where they remained for over two decades before returning to county football in 2005. A memorable 2012–13 campaign saw the club crowned Kent League champions with a dramatic final-day 7–1 victory, earning promotion to the Isthmian League.

Recent years have brought both highs and lows. After a period of rebuilding, the Deres were crowned Southern Counties East League Premier Division champions in 2022–23, returning to the Isthmian League. However, the 2023–24 season proved challenging, and the club now competes once again in the SCEFL Premier Division, determined to bounce back stronger.



## Squad list

Alfie Morgan  
Ben Rankine  
Billy Ford  
Billy French  
Callum Lewis  
Charlie Cottrell  
Connor French  
Cory Nash  
Daniel John Parkinson  
Danny Alexander  
Danny Sean Lear  
David Ditu  
Donnell Abraham James Anderson  
Frederick Baker  
Frederick James Warwick  
Frederick Mark Cray  
Freddie Oake  
Freddie Springett  
George Basios  
Harry John Day  
Harvey Mead  
Hayden Outteridge  
Jesse Dennis George Rowe  
Joseph Ikuesan  
Ladic Melconian  
Louie Farr-Lucas  
Louie Richardson  
Louie Watkins  
Luca Sanford  
Matthew John Abebrese  
Max Hardy  
Michael Crabbe  
Nehemiah Bourne  
Oliver Kyle Milton  
Prince Ifeanyi  
Robert Alex Strachan  
Robert Sayer  
Ronnie McClean  
Ryan Fowler  
Scott Jarvis  
Thomas Borders  
Thomas Fitzgerald  
Tommy Whitnell  
Tomi Kale  
Tyller Davis-Whitlock



# 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.



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