

The Citizen



2024/25 SOUTHERN COMBINATION CHALLENGE CUP SECOND ROUND



| VS |



THE 04/02 19:45

THE RIVERMOOR, RG30 6AY

THE OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME
OF READING CITY FC | 2024/25 ISSUE 15



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**4 FEB 2025
19:45 TUE
THE RIVERMOOR**



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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

Preliminary Round 2019/20, 2021/22, 2022/23, 2023/24

FA Vase

First Round Proper 2021/22

FA Youth Cup

First Round Proper 2019/20

2021/22. Second Round Proper 2021/22

TVPL Division Four Runners Up

2020/21

Southern Combination Challenge Cup Semi-Finalists

2021/22

BTC 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

TVPL Division Three Runners Up

2022/23

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Chairman's welcome



Good evening and welcome to the Rivermoor.

Tonight we begin our defence of the Southern Combination Challenge Cup at home in the hope of retaining it for at least another year having won it here at home nine months ago.

Tonight is a historic night for us as it's the first time we have faced Epsom & Ewell.

A warm welcome to the players, officials and supporters of today's opposition Epsom & Ewell. I hope you enjoy the game and your very first visit to the Rivermoor this evening and of course the match officials who are officiating this evening's Southern Combination Challenge Cup Second Round clash.

Thank you for your continued support, it is appreciated by everyone at the club.

Regards,
Martin Law
Chairman



**Charlie
YORK**



**Jonathan
O'SULLIVAN**

Goalkeepers



**Liam
BAKER**



**Ellis
COWD**



**Charlie
DAVIES**



**Archie
DENTON**



**Luke
DONVILLE**



**Jack
IMPIAZZI**



**Declan
JOYCE**



**Phil
VEAL**



**Alfie
GRANT**

Defenders



**Josh
BAINES**



**Bobbi
EMERY**



**Charlie
GMITEREK**



**Rob
GERRARD**



**Eddie
LAZARCZUK**



**Luka
MARUSIC**



**Mckoy
PALMER**



**Joe
PILLING**



**Lamin
SANKOH**



**Daniel
SMITH**



**Joel
VALENTIN**

#City1sts



**Noah
CHENGUN**



**Pele
HAGGER**



**Max
LASCHOK**



**Harlen
LEWIS**



**Ewan
LYNCH**



**Lucas
WYNN**

Forwards

Club Management

Chairman	Martin Law
Secretary	Chris Gallimore
Treasurer	Victoria Pyke
Club Welfare Officer	Steve Stace
Marketing, Comms & Community Engagement Executive	Ryan Sheehan

First Team Manager	Simon Johnson
First Team Assistant Manager	Michael Butcher
First Team Coach	Kieran Jennings
First Team Coach	Jamie Williams
First Team Physio	Vacant
Director of Football	Dave Wyeth



CCFL - Premier Division North

MATCH REPORT



Sat 1 February

2 Holyport
0 Reading City

Fashanu (22') Seeman (6')

With Simon Johnson still away Michael Butcher led the Cityzens on a short-trip to Holyport in an all-Berkshire Combined Counties Football League Premier Division North clash kicking off what will be a tough month of fixtures.

It didn't take long for our hosts to take the lead with 6 minutes on the clock as Harvey Seeman capitalised on a well-timed counter attack. With twenty two minutes on the clock, Amari Fashanu doubled Holyport's lead.

With City two goals down, frustration began to boil and Alfie Grant was cautioned by the referee with twenty five minutes on the clock. Eddie Lazarczuk then found himself in the book with thirty eight minutes.

In added time, Holyport's Fabien Etienne was sin binned, bringing an end to an contested first half where there was a flurry of bookings.

HALF TIME: Holyport 2 v Reading City 0

Michael Butcher made a substitution at the start of the second half as Archie Denton replaced Luke Donville.

With fifty three minutes played, Holyport's Logan Coles was shown yellow.

With an hour played Michael Butcher once again called upon the bench and Lucas Wynn was introduced in place of Phil Veal. Holyport then made their first swap of the afternoon as Jake Beck-Nardoni replaced Harvey Seeman with sixty two minutes on the clock.

As City tried to find a way back into the game, the changes continued to be rung and with seventy minutes played Bobbi Emery replaced Reiss Baker.

With seventy four minutes on the clock Holyport swapped Daniel Vincent for Alexander Bourne.

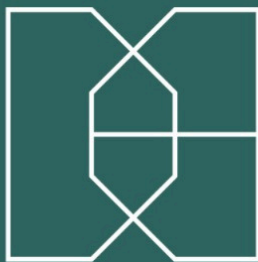
With seventy nine minutes played Holyport swapped earlier goalscorer Amari Fashanu for Lucas Surpanu.

With eighty two minutes on the clock, Michael Butcher swapped Charlie Davies for Eddie Lazarczuk and with eighty seven minutes played Harvey Collins replaced Josh Baines.

With eighty four minutes played our hosts replaced Cyril Ocansey with Matthew Ensby.

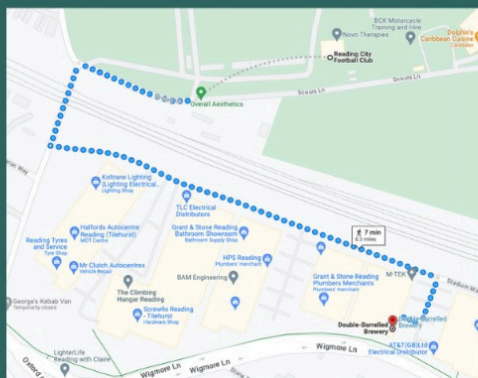
FULL TIME: Holyport 2 v Reading City 0

Despite the result, there was positives to take with City youngster Reiss Baker making his full First Team debut.



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Epsom & Ewell FC Club History



@EpsomEwellFC

Early Years and Development (1918–1939) Founded in March 1918 as Epsom Juniors Cricket Club, the club soon expanded into football, playing as Epsom Juniors F.C. By 1919, it joined the Surrey Junior League and, in 1920, became a founding member of the Sutton & District League. A name change to Epsom Town F.C. in 1922 marked the beginning of a successful period, with multiple league and cup victories, including winning the Surrey Senior League in 1925/26.

The 1930s saw continued success, including a First-Round Proper appearance in the FA Cup (1933/34) against Clapton Orient, which drew nearly 9,500 spectators. Epsom F.C. (renamed in 1934) continued strong performances in the London League and Surrey Senior competitions until football was interrupted by World War II.

Post-War Era and Growth (1945–1970s) After the war, Epsom F.C. resumed competition, joining the Corinthian League in 1949. The 1950s brought cup final appearances, including the Surrey Senior Cup (1954) and the Surrey Senior Shield victory (1955). The club appointed its first manager, Doug Whitehead, in 1955, nearly achieving a league and cup double in 1956/57. In 1960, Epsom F.C. was renamed Epsom & Ewell F.C. to attract wider local support. However, the 1960s were challenging, with inconsistent performances and eventual relegation in 1965. The 1970s saw struggles but also a resurgence under Pat O'Connell, leading to a Surrey Senior League double (1974/75) and an FA Vase Final appearance at Wembley in 1975.

Isthmian League and New Challenges (1977–1990s) Epsom & Ewell joined the Isthmian League in 1977, winning Division Two in their first season. The 1980s featured successes such as the Surrey Senior Cup victory (1981) and a promotion to the Premier Division (1984). However, managerial departures led to squad instability, resulting in relegations in 1986 and 1987. In 1993, the club left its West Street ground, becoming tenants at Banstead Athletic.

Modern Era and Ground Moves (2000s–2020s) Under Adrian Hill, Epsom & Ewell briefly returned to the Isthmian Division 1 South in 2002 but faced subsequent relegation. By 2006, they joined the Combined Counties League, achieving strong finishes, including fourth place in 2008/09. In 2010, after 17 years at Banstead Athletic, the club relocated to Merstham F.C., then Chipstead F.C. in 2012.

The 2012/13 season was significant, as Epsom & Ewell won their first silverware since 1981, securing the Combined Counties League Cup. In 2016, the club played a friendly in Chantilly, France, where players met England's national team staff. The 2017/18 season saw struggles, culminating in relegation during the club's centenary year.

After managerial changes, Epsom & Ewell gradually improved, reaching the 2019/20 Division One League Cup Final before the season was curtailed. The club moved again in 2020, this time to Leatherhead's Fetcham Grove.

Under Matt Chapman in 2022/23, the club finished second, securing promotion to the Combined Counties League after a five-year absence. In 2023, another ground move led to a partnership with Cobham F.C., and James Scott was appointed manager. However, by October 2023, Steve Springett became interim manager before Warren Burton and Gwynn Berry were appointed to ensure league survival.

Recent Developments and Future Aspirations (2024–Present) After finishing 16th in the 2023/24 season, Gwynn Berry departed, leaving Warren Burton as sole manager. He brought in Craig Dundas (player-coach), Simon Payne (assistant manager), and Max Johnson (coach) for the 2024/25 season, aiming to break into the top ten. Epsom & Ewell F.C. continues to evolve, balancing its historic legacy with modern challenges, striving for higher league positions and long-term stability.

Squad list

ETHAN NELSON-ROBERTS

LUKE MILLER

KIONTE GILLFILLIAN-WAUL

DANIEL O'DONOVAN

CALLUM WILSON

CARL OBLITEY

WILLIAM KENDALL

NIAL STILLWELL

ALI FOFAHAN

ANTHONY NAZARETH

JASON BLOOR

TOBY YOUNG

ETHAN CHARLES BRAZIER

CONRAD DAVID ESSILFIE-CONDUAH

SEAN-MICHAEL ANDERSON

NICOLAS BOSTAN

FABIO NUNES

LUKE TAYLOR

KAILAN REECE NORTH

FAEBIAN WITTER

STEFAN AIWONE

AXEL KODJO

STEFAN HIWONE

FELIPE DE LIMA

REECE TIERNEY

JACK TORBETT

Manager

WARREN BURTON

Coach

MAX JOHNSON, CRAIG DUNDAS

Physio

JODIE DAVIS



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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