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Footsteps Nursery & Pre-School Next to Chalfont St Peter AFC, Mill Meadow, Gravel Hill, Chalfont St. Peter, Buckinghamshire. SL9 9QX

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CHALFONT ST PETER ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL CLUB

Mill Meadow, Gravel Hill, Chalfont St Peter, **GERRARDS CROSS, SL9 9QX** Telephone 01753 886477 or 07836 387215 Founded 1926

Members of the Berks & Bucks FA Members of the Allied Counties League

CLUB OFFICIALS Trustees Benny Goodman, Ingar Haugretta

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD Chairman: Denis Mair Club & Match Secretary: Ian Doorbar Treasurer & Programme Editor: Ian Doorbar

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> COMMITTEE MEMBERS Chris Birch, Nigel Orr, Alan West.

FOOTBALL MANAGEMENT

Joint Managers: Michael East and Liam Dwyer Assistant Manager: Andrew Chapman Coach: Kennedy Newbert Analysis Coach: Sam Day

Physio: Bella Fulton

Ownership: The legal name of the club, which is an unincorporated members' club, is Chalfont St Peter Association Football Club.

> The Club is working to make the ground a safe and enjoyable environment for all. Visitors are requested to observe the following.

Ground Safety Regulations

ALL persons entering this ground are only admitted subject to these Rules and the Rules and Regulations of the Football Association.

The Club reserves the right to refuse entry to the ground, prosecute or eject, or cause to be ejected, any persons who within the Ground or the Club premises is considered by the Club, employees or agents (hereafter called the Club), in their absolute discretion to be, or to have been, behaving in any of the following ways:-

- (a) Entering the field of play (without permission from a Club official), before or during the course of a game. The field of play is that area within the railings surrounding the perimeter of the pitch. (a)
- (b)
- (b) Using obscene or abusive language or persistent swearing. (c) Being drunk or under the influence of drink or drugs to any degree. (c) (a)
- (d) Making vulgar gestures.
- (e) Using terms of abuse, racial or otherwise. (f) Using violent or intimidating behaviour.
- (e) (f)
- · NO bottles, metal cans, glasses, placards, banners, firearms, knives, offensive weapons or other similar articles are permitted and the Police and Club Stewards have the right to search any spectator at any time, and to confiscate any article which they consider could be a danger to other spectators.
- · NO alcohol is to be consumed within the ground. Alcohol can only be consumed within the confines of the Clubhouse.
- · Adults accompanying U16s have responsibility for the actions of these U16s at all times and should be supervised.
- · The climbing of floodlight pylons, fences, stands and other buildings is strictly forbidden and the Police and Club Stewards have the right to eject any spectator found doing so.
- · ALL vehicles parked in and around the ground are parked at the owner's own risk.
- · Spectators attend at their own risk and the Club accepts no responsibility for injury or damage to personal belongings.
- · NO unauthorised vehicles can be parked within the clubhouse car park and the Club reserves the right to move any vehicles in contravention of this regulation and shall not be liable for any damages caused.
- Bags and packages MUST NOT be left unattended.
- · In the unlikely event of an emergency evacuation, you must follow all instructions of club stewards and officials and move towards the evacuation points.
- The Club reserves the right to amend these rules at any time.

By order of the Board of Chalfont St Peter AFC

Welcome to the game

A very warm welcome to Mill Meadow for today's Combined Counties League Premier Division North game against Risborough Rangers.

A particular welcome to our visitors and we hope their players, officials and supporters enjoy their short stay with us.

We also welcome our match officials; Ricky Ansher, Larry Smith and Antoni Ochedowski.

This is our first meeting with Risborough since 2007, when we beat them at Mill Meadow on our way to winning the Spartan League Challenge Trophy.

Like so many others, we were victims of the rain last weekend as our trip to Flackwell Heath was postponed. This hasn't stopped the merry-go-round of players, and it is more than likely that there will be several home debuts on view this afternoon.

I would ask you to keep a weather eye open to upcoming fixtures as there is some confusion over the next few weeks.

Tuesday's game at Harefield United has a 7.30pm kick off (not 7.45pm as listed on some sites) and may yet be rescheduled due to a clash with an FA Youth Cup game.

We don't have a game next Saturday as there are sides still battling in the FA Vase. We wish them well.

The Flackwell Heath game has been rearranged for Tuesday 12
December. At the same time, our trip to Burnham, originally scheduled for 23 December has been pulled forward to 13 December as their tenants, Southall, take precedence over their landlords! With two games scheduled on successive days, something will have to give and we await the outcome.

Our next home game, the last of the year, is on 16 December when Virginia Water visit.

Michael and Liam having been working their socks off to bring together a successful squad and a strong end to the old year would be a great way to kick off the new year.

Our win at Broadfields, with a late winner after a sketchy start, showed how far they have come and how quickly things can change, especially after the horror show of our last home game against Harefield.

Enjoy the game and safe home afterwards.

COME ON THE SAINTS

lan

On the cover Max McGarvie & Henry Dudley



Good Afternoon and welcome to Mill Meadow, especially our visitors Risborough Rangers and in particular our under 18s Manager Joe Fitzgerald who will be playing for today's opposition. I hope you all enjoy the game.

Since my last programme notes we've had two fixtures due to last Saturday's away game versus Flackwell Heath being called off due to the weather. The two games I feel were polar opposite performances of how this Chalfont team can play.

Against Harefield we under performed. I can easily say in my 11 months at the club, I would cite it as our worst performance. As a team we never showed up or competed with our opposition which was disappointing and Harefield deserved their late bundled winner. I can only apologise to all the supporters, chairman and committee for that performance, it wasn't a true Chalfont performance.

However a week later against a strong Broadfields United side we over performed, outworked and despite going a goal behind we scored two late goals to win away. For me Broadfields have been one of the strongest teams we've played this season and my dark horses for the play offs. I was delighted with this win and feel it demonstrates the potential of this group.

As I have previously written in my programme notes, this is a young group with some very talented players. I always enjoy looking back at old team sheets and programmes of past teams at all levels and looking at squads full of unknown players at the time who have gone on to succeed. I feel at the moment we have a great young group who in years to come people won't believe they all used to play for Chalfont. The sky is the limit and hopefully we can aid them in their development to fulfil their potential.

However, with a young team you do get your bumps in the road and backward steps along the way, that's what the Harefield performance was. Hopefully we can learn from this and put it right when we play Harefield again on Tuesday night.

Todays game against Risborough is a

great opportunity for our team to test themselves against one of the favourites for the title, we will be doing all in our ability to ensure we get a result. We will then look towards Tuesday night and avenge the month's earlier defeat against Harefield while aiming to finish the month strong.

In player news we have seen the departures of Tom Clark (opting to leave for money to Harefield), Kahlil Francis (for minutes) and Brad Dixon Smith (travel convenience). All talented young players and we wish them well and thank them for their efforts with us.

We welcome back to the club Fin Purcell in between the sticks, Fin played 6 games for us last season helping us to ensure survival and has bags of potential having previously played professionally with Arsenal and Southend and was playing for our neighbours Uxbridge earlier in the season.

We also welcome on loan Darren Page from Marlow. Darren is a rapid striker with a prolific goal scoring record for Marlow u23s and at Step 6. Already he has impressed against Broadfields in our last outing.

Caden Barber is a young talented defender who joins us from Bushey Rangers in the Herts County League. He came highly recommended to us and made a huge last minute tackle to ensure the win at Broadfields.

Lastly we have added left back Harrison Marquez on loan from Slough. Harrison was somebody myself and Easty identified to replace Brad and were delighted to get on board. Harrison has great physical and technical prowess and we feel he's going to have a big future in the game, hopefully starting with us.

Lastly we would like to wish our three players Harrison Mead, Jack James and Henry Dudley all the best in their Tuesday night game in the second round of the FA Youth Cup for Tring Athletic's under 18s. They are playing away at Leyton Orient with the winner playing the third round away to Newcastle United. The three lads have been great for us and it's a shame it clashes with our fixture at Harefield as we would have loved to support them at Brisbane Road. Fingers crossed they can get the job done and we can all go Newcastle to support them.

As always myself, Easty, our management team and players appreciate all the support from our chairman, committee, volunteers and support. It makes a huge difference so stay behind us and keep backing our young progressive team.

Up the Saints

Líam

Joint 1st Team Manager

Meet the players

Jordan Payne



Centre Back

Age: 27

How long have you been at the club? 3 seasons

Why did you join the club? The Management

Best thing about playing for the club? Family environment

Best moment so far FA Cup sent off after 10 mins but still

winning the game. Michael (keeper) was unreal that day

What do you do outside of football? Eat

Quickfire

Team you support **Tottenham** Favourite meal Spaghetti Funniest team mate Woody Most talented team mate Meady Most likely to turn up late Myself Most likely to swerve a round James Worst dressed Max Unsung club hero Lewis

Meet the players

Ollie Salami



Left or Right Midfield

Age: 32

How long have you been at the club? 4 months

Why did you join the club? Easty made me: wanted to be part of this

new project and test myself in this league

Best thing about playing for the club? Togetherness of the team and being the

oldest

Best moment so far First league goal

What do you do outside of football? Work in sales

Quickfire

Team you support Liverpool

Favourite meal Lasagne

Funniest team mate Max

Most talented team mate Henry Duds

Most likely to turn up late Meady

Most likely to swerve a round Max

Worst dressed James Evans

Unsung club hero Jordan Payne





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RESULTS AND FIXTURES

TUESDAY 21 NOVEMBER
0-3 North Greenford Utd v Risborough Rangers

WEDNESDAY 22 NOVEMBER 2-0 Burnham v Harefield Utd

SATURDAY 25 NOVEMBER
Broadfields Utd v Egham Town
Burnham v Ardley Utd

CHALFONT ST PETER v Risborough Rangers
Edgware & Kingsbury v Flackwell Heath
Harefield Utd v Virginia Water
Hilltop v North Greenford Utd
Holyport v Wokingham & Emmbrook
Milton Utd v Reading City

Wallingford & Crowmarsh v Bedfont Sports
Wembley v Rayners Lane

TUESDAY 28 NOVEMBER
Harefield Utd v CHALFONT ST PETER

SATURDAY 2 DECEMBER
Holyport v Broadfields Utd
Reading City v Wembley
Virginia Water v Risborough Rangers
Wokingham & Emmbrook v Flackwell Heath

SATURDAY 9 DECEMBER
Ardley Utd v Wembley
Bedfont Sports v Edgware & Kingsbury
Burnham v Virginia Water
Flackwell Heath v Egham Town
Harefield Utd v Hilltop
Rayners Lane v Milton Utd
Reading City v CHALFONT ST PETER
Wokingham & Emmbrook v Holyport

Combined Counties League Premier North Division as at 24 November 2023

Pos	Team	Р	w	D	L	GF	GA	+/-	Pts
1	Rayners Lane	16	12	2	2	51	15	36	38
2	Flackwell Heath	14	10	3	1	35	14	21	33
3	Virginia Water	14	9	1	4	26	19	7	28
4	Milton United	16	8	3	5	31	26	5	27
5	North Greenford United	17	7	5	5	31	26	5	26
6	Broadfields United	14	7	2	5	29	31	-2	23
7	Risborough Rangers	17	6	4	7	31	25	6	22
8	Bedfont Sports	12	6	3	3	31	12	19	21
9	Egham Town	15	5	6	4	25	22	3	21
10	Ardley United	15	5	5	5	31	28	-7	20
11	Burnham	12	5	4	3	37	23	14	19
12	Reading City	10	5	2	3	18	15	3	17
13	Chalfont St Peter	14	5	2	7	23	27	-4	17
14	Wokingham & Emmbrook	14	4	3	7	22	31	-9	15
15	Hilltop	12	4	2	6	20	23	-3	14
16	Holyport	13	3	3	7	15	24	-9	12
17	Wembley	12	3	3	6	18	33	-15	12
18	Wallingford & Crowmarsh	16	3	3	10	16	45	-29	12
19	Edgware & Kingsbury	14	3	2	9	18	35	-17	11
20	Harefield United	15	1	2	12	10	34	-24	5

Chalfont St Peter Results & Fixtures 2023-24

	Date	Opposition		Comp	Res	sult	Att	Pos	Scorers	S	Υ	R
	Sat 5	WALLINGFORD & CROWMARSH	н	FA Cup ExPre	1-3	L	130	_	Krasnigi		4	
	Sat 12	Egham Town	Α	League	0-3	L	91	19	- '		3	
st	Tue 15	HILLTOP	Н	League	1-1	D	90	13	Wood		2	
August	Sat 19	BROADFIELDS UTD	Н	League Cup 1R	1-4	L	64	-	McGarvie		3	
Αſ	Tue 22	Wembley	Α	League	6-4	W	74	10	Hodgins 2, McGarvie 2, Kennard 2		5	
	Sat 26	Langley	Α	FA Vase 1Q	1-2	L	39	-	Francis		1	
	Mon 28	EDGWARE & KINGSBURY	Н	League	1-2	L	93	13	Francis		1	
	Sat 2	BURNHAM	н	League	2-1	W	81	11	Hodgins, Mead (p)		5	
er	Sat 9	Holyport	Α	League	0-2	L	59	15	-		5	
Ĕ	Sat 16	RAYNERS LANE	Н	League	0-5	L	53	18	-		4	
September	Sat 23	WALLINGFORD & CROWMARSH	Н	League	5-0	W	62	12	McGarvie 2, Mead 2, Salami		4	1
Se	Tue 26	AMERSHAM TOWN	Н	BB Sen Cup 1R	1-2	L	73		Bircham		2	1
	Sat 30	Wokingham & Emmbrook	Α	League	4-2	W	85	11	Mathieson 2, Payne, Salami		4	
October	Sat 7	MILTON UTD	Н	League	0-2	L	76	12	-		2	
ctc	Sat 14	Ardley Utd	Α	League	1-1	D	72	11	McGarvie			1
0	Sat 28	North Greenford Utd	Α	League	1-2	L	76	14	OG		3	
November	Sat 4	HAREFIELD UTD	Н	League	0-1	L	123	15	-		3	
E	Sat 11	Broadfields Utd	Α	League	2-1	W	57	11	McGarvie, Hodgins			
8	Sat 25	RISBOROUGH RANGERS	Н	League								
~	Tue 28	Harefield Utd	Α	League								
_	Sat 9	Reading City	Α	League								
pe	Tue 12	Flackwell Heath	Α	League								
December	Sat 16	VIRGINIA WATER	Н	League								
Dec	Sat 23	Burnham	Α	League								
	Sat 30	Edgware & Kingsbury	Α	League								
≥	Sat 6	WEMBLEY	н	League								
January	Sat 13	HOLYPORT	Н	League								
Г	Sat 20	Rayners Lane	Α	League								
5	Sat 3	WOKINGHAM & EMMBROOK	Н	League								
February	Sat 10	Milton Utd	Α	League								
ep	Sat 17	ARDLEY UTD	Н	League								
_	Sat 24	Bedfont Sports	Α	League								
	Sat 2	NORTH GREENFORD UTD	Н	League								
March	Sat 9	BEDFONT SPORTS	Н	League								
٦ar	Sat 16	Risborough Rangers	Α	League								
~	Sat 23	Wallingford & Crowmarsh	Α	League								
	Sat 30	READING CITY	Н	League								
	Mon 1	Hilltop	Α	League								
⋷	Sat 6	BROADFIELDS UTD	Н	League								
April	Sat 13	EGHAM TOWN	Н	League								
	Sat 20	Virginia Water	Α	League								
	Sat 27	FLACKWELL HEATH	Н	League								



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Today's visitors Risborough Rangers



Risborough Rangers Football Club started in 1970 as a team of 12-year olds who wanted to play competitive football.

The main motivators were Life Presidents Tony Elsey and Derek Wallace. Derek was instrumental in forming the Wycombe Star League that now provides football for hundreds of youngsters in the Wycombe area, and Risborough Rangers currently have teams at all ages ranging from the Under 10 to Under 16 playing in this league.

In the 1975/76 season, the previous years Under 16's went into the Wycombe & District League as a men's team, and in their second season in adult football won the 3rd Division. Unfortunately, the team then folded, after which the club provided only boy's football until the Under 16's of 1979/80. having won the United-Carr Cup, went into the Reading Youth League for two seasons, and then the Wycombe & District League. They won promotion in successive seasons and were followed two years later by the following years Under 16's as a reserve team, who emulated the feats of their predecessor,

ending up in the Ercol Senior League and the FA Walters Premier League consecutively. At around this time, Rangers moved to 'Windsors', their current ground. 'Windsors' had been the home of the now defunct Princes Risborough Town FC who were one of the founder members of the Hellenic league in 1953. Within several years, club members had managed to improve the ground substantially by building the clubhouse.

In 1989 Risborough accepted an invitation to join the South Midlands League Division 1. In the first two seasons the club found the level difficult and finished second from the bottom and therefore had to apply for reelection. The 1991/92 season saw a great improvement when Risborough finished in 8th position whilst also celebrating its 21st anniversary. In the 1994/95 season, they were promoted to the newly formed Senior Division, after finishing 4th under the management of Frank Carter and they consolidated with a mid-table position in the next season. In the mid-90s, Bob Rayner became manager for the first time and saw the establishment of a sound youth policy with an Under 18's team in the Wycombe & South Bucks Youth League. After a reasonably successful spell, in which the club reached the semi-final of the Senior Division Cup and the quarter final of the Berks & Bucks Senior Trophy, Bob was offered the job of Brackley Town manager in the Southern league and took the opportunity to test himself at a higher level.

After Bob left at the start of the 1998/99

season, former assistant Jon Franklin took over as manager and maintained a consistent level of football at the club. After Jon's' departure, the club began to struggle and were eventually relegated to Division Two.

In 2005, chairman Richard Woodward persuaded Bob Rayner to return to the club following his departure from Thame United. Finishing fourth in his first two seasons back and just missing out on the runners up spot in the final game in the second season, Bob has had to rebuild his side from the Rangers junior ranks. He has patiently waited for his young side to blossom and the patience began to pay off in the 2010/11 season when Rangers achieved a fifth-place finish and reached the semi-final of the Challenge Trophy, losing 2-0 to the eventual winner and Premier Division champions. Chalfont St Peter. On route to the semifinal, Rangers beat four teams from divisions above them including division one champions Berkhamsted Town.

The 2011/12 season was Risborough's best season of late with a late charge securing runners up spot in the league, and a first cup final reached in over 20 years, losing the Anagram Records Trophy final 1-0 to Baldock Town of the Hertfordshire County Senior League. The next season brought two good cup runs.

Risborough's progress in the Anagram Record's Trophy was halted in the Semi Final by Baldock Town. The rematch of the previous season's final ended up with the same score line as Baldock went on to defend the trophy. A second cup final in two years was achieved via the Division 2 cup, although the prospect of

lifting the cup once again eluded Rangers, this time losing 2 nil to Aston Clinton. A league finish of fourth was achieved, and with the hard work off the pitch, including securing the funding for floodlights which were erected in time for the 2012/13 season.

In 2016 Risborough finally won some silverware, after several near misses over the last few years. The Berks & Bucks Intermediate Cup was claimed after a 2-1 AET win over United Counties League Olney Town. 2016/17 season saw Bob Rayner retire and his son Jamie take charge saw the club finish in a creditable 6th position and reach the semi-finals of the Berks & Bucks Intermediate Cup before losing on penalties to eventual winners Woodley United. The 2017/8 season started with some promise but sadly this didn't last with the club finishing in 8th place, the highlight of the campaign, however, was a run in the Challenge Trophy which included victories over Premier Division sides Leighton Town, Oxhey Jets, Edgware Town and London Colney, but alas were beaten 3-1 in the Final by fellow Division One side Broadfields United at Colney Heath

In October 2018 then current manager Jamie Rayner decided to step down from his position because of work commitments. The Club advertised the position and after a healthy response, the Board appointed the former Hemel Hempstead Town, Arlesey Town, Leighton Town Aylesbury United, Aylesbury FC boss Mark Eaton as their new man.

When Eaton took over the club were

19th in Division One and a massive negative goal difference but come the end of the season Rangers finished in 7th spot with a positive goal difference as the season was turn on it's head. The season ended though with some silverware when London Lions were defeated 2-0 in the final of the Spartan South Midlands League Division One Cup, which was played at Leverstock Green.

Because of the ongoing re-construction of the non-league system the club made a lateral movement to the Hellenic League Division One East from the Spartan for the start of the 2019/20 season. The 2019/20 season saw Rangers unbeaten and top the league by 12 points with a game in hand over 2nd place Abingdon United after playing 23 games out of the full 32. The COVID pandemic put an end to any hopes of promotion to step 5 for the first time in the club's history however as the season was officially voided. However, in 2021 the club were promoted to the Premier Division of the Spartan South Midlands League based on their results in the abandoned 2019-20 and 2020-21 seasons.

Season 2021/22 saw the club promoted to the Premier Division of the Spartan South Midlands Football League by the FA based on their results in the abandoned 2019–20 and 2020–21 seasons. Overall it was a very strong debut season at Step 5 with the Club never being outside the top two from the start of October. In a exciting two horse race with New Salamis which culminated in a last day shootout at the

B.E.P. Stadium between the teams. New Salamis won the game 2-0 to become Champions and Rangers had to settle for second place, 10 points clear of 3rd placed Hadley.

Further disappointment was to follow with the Ground Grading which the Club failed with Hadley taking Rangers place at Step 4.

Season 2022/23 was a season of two halves, early exits from all cup competitions and mediocre league form meant the club was languishing in midtable but following a lengthy period of inactivity due to the inclement weather, Rangers were able to reset and go again. This meant that the team were to go on a strong second half of the season which resulted in 3rd position, three points behind 2nd place Stotfold.

Season 2023/24 will see the club laterally move to the Cherry Red Records Combined Counties League Premier Division North.



Our Club History Chalfont St Peter AFC



The club was formed in 1926 and played local junior football from its ground on Gold Hill Common.

1948 saw a move to the Great Western Combination and a year later the club moved to its present location, although the picturesque name of Mill Meadow belies its origins as a refuse tip. As the club developed off the field thanks to the support of many volunteers so success began to arrive on the field and in 1952 the first silverware was won, the Berks & Bucks FA Intermediate Cup. Senior status followed and progress through the Parthenon League, London League and Spartan League followed.

The early 1970's were difficult for the club but a move into the Athenian league saw a change in fortunes.

The 1980's, now in the Isthmian League, brought some consistency in league performances and some successful campaigns in the FA Cup and FA Vase.

The 1990's was another difficult decade, culminating in a low point of two successive bottom places.

2001/02 saw a rebuild under Martin Dean with a good start to the season but

a subsequent falling away saw them finish 14th. The lower echelons became the accustomed territory for Saints for several seasons until Dean's departure at the end of the 2003/04 season.

Managing Chalfont to victory in the Berks & Bucks Under-18 Challenge Cup was a young Danny Edwards. His reward was to be handed the reins of the First Team for the new season. And so began a rollercoaster ride of success and near misses that continued until just recently.

A restructuring within the Isthmian league at the end of the 2005/06 season saw Saints moving to the Spartan South Midlands Premier League.

2006/07 saw a top half finish in their first season in the Spartan and a trophy for the cabinet, the Wycombe Senior Cup, secured with a 7-0 win over Downley Albion at the Wycombe Wanderers ground.

2007/08 was a hugely successful season. Danny Edwards was developing an exciting squad and the style of play was both entertaining and successful. Good runs in both the FA Cup and FA Vase came together with a Final appearance in the Premier Division Cup. Topping them all was winning the Challenge Trophy with a 2-0 win over Brimsdown Rovers. A close three-horse race in the league saw Saints pipped at the post into runners-up spot.

2008/09 was about building on the standards set in the previous season. And it didn't disappoint. Some top scalps in the FA Cup heralded a season of cup runs. The FA Vase was the crowning glory, with the Saints making it all the way to the semi-final and being heart

breaking seconds away from winning the right to play at Wembley. Saints were in the hunt for the league title all the way to the last week of the season but the fixture congestion caused by the cup successes began to tell and they couldn't quite make it across the line, eventually finishing a brave third.

Expectations were high going into season 2009/10 after going close to promotion in the two previous seasons. A slow start and a nightmare run of losses in October saw the title chase wobble and rapid exits from all cup competitions. But an incredible run of form with just one defeat in 23 took Saints to the top to the pile where they became the target for other teams' top performances and it wasn't until they were overtaken by Aylesbury in the last two games that they had to settle for the runners-up spot again.

At the start of 2010/11, the aim was clear: promotion was the number one target. Getting off to an incredible start in notching up seventeen straight wins, Saints grabbed top spot and refused to relinquish it for the entire season, never being less than four points clear at any stage. The focus was clear and any progress in the cups was quickly curtailed. Such was the dominance in the league, the champagne corks popped with five games to spare as the title was secured. The curtain was brought down on the record breaking season and their five year stay in the Spartan League by winning the Challenge Trophy for an unprecedented league and cup double.

For the 2011/12 season, life was expected to be a trial for Saints yet they

made a bright start in their new environs and quickly acclimatised. For long periods they were genuine contenders but a poor end to the season saw them fall away into the mid table.

2014/15 saw the goals begin to return. A promising start saw the side hard to beat but too many draws held them back. A run in the FA Cup, was coupled with a strong run in November that saw the club in a playoff position but from such heights, a miserable New Year run saw them tumble down into relegation territory. It took a stubborn recovery in April to ensure eventual safety.

2015/16 was a highwater mark for Saints in their current run in the Southern League. Putting aside an early exit in the FA Cup Saints went on to head the table at New Year and looked set for their first tilt at the play offs, if not more. Sadly they repeated the poor run of results thereafter and fell away to finish sixth. Still an excellent all-round season as Tony Mendy secured top scorer honours in the division with 30 goals.

In contrast, season 2016/17 was possibly the poorest in over a decade. A storming start to the season saw Saints in top spot throughout August but the hole left by the departed Mendy was never filled and as the goals dried up so the tumble down the table gathered pace. Some poor signings added to the problems and the second half of the season delivered just four wins and for a while relegation was a real possibility before safety was finally achieved.

2017/18 was one of our most exciting seasons in the Southern League, our seventh, with the side in playoff

contention right up until the final few games. Our peerless record against those sides who ultimately claimed the top places, with just the single defeat in 12 games, including a notable double against champions Beaconsfield Town, underlined how competitive a side we were. Still struggling for goals, it was our defence that led the way with 16 clean sheets. It was a season that saw evergreen skipper Alan Hedley pass the 500 games mark and manager Danny Edwards reach 700 games in charge. Saints embrace change but enjoy stability at the same time.

2018/19 saw Saints return to the Isthmian League after 12 seasons as football was restructured. An inconsistent defence and a shortage of goals ensured Saints were unable to escape the mid-table places. Towards the end of the season, Danny Edwards signalled his wish to step down from the role he had held with such distinction and Saints had to begin the process of finding a new manager.

If 2019/20 season became the one that never happened, it provided a new launch point for Chalfont as Finlay Johnson took over the reins. New faces and promising youth saw the season start well but a lack of goals eventually started to take its toll. A mid-table finish looked to have been secured before the lockdown put a premature end to the season.

Silverware for both the Under-18s and the Under 23s certainly raised the spirits in the club in the 2020/21 season but for the Senior side the season barely got going before it was abandoned.

2021/22 proved to be a season of shattered dreams. The optimism of an opening day win soon turned into a season best watched from behind the sofa as it seemed that everything that could go against the side did. Several changes of manager failed to halt the slide and with too many games decided by a single or a late goal, and with a squad decimated by injuries and departures, relegation from Step 4 after 11 seasons was confirmed in a play-off game.

2022/23 was a tough learning experience for Saints. A preseason that saw the management and playing squad hollowed out for the second time in recent years ultimately proved too much for manager Dean Goodliff and in the new year Michael East and Liam Dwyer took joint control of the team. The threat of relegation never went away and in a crazy end to the season when the three bottom sides couldn't help but win, Saints held their nerve at Harefield to secure the final day win to ensure safety.

Saints will look to take the lessons learned from a chastening season into 2023/24 with a greater sense of confidence and stability and will be looking to the higher regions of the table and not looking down.



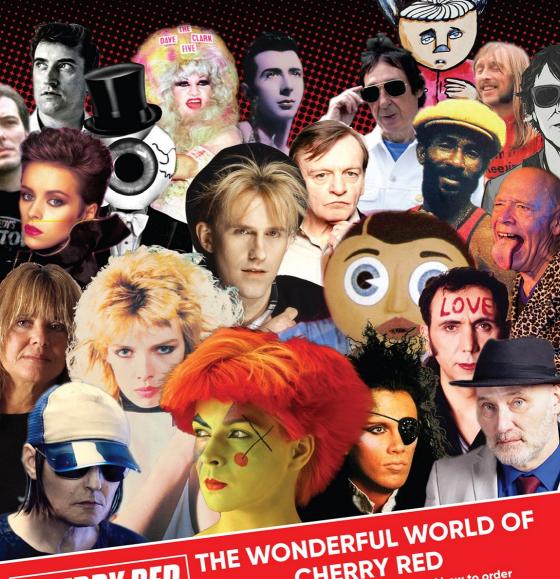
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Darren Page

Kayne Connor

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