

## Ascot United • Club History

Ascot United as we know it, was founded in 1965 by a men's team who played their games at Sunninghill with "after match meetings" in The Wells in Cheapside village (now Mikado's). teams playing as long ago as 1928 under the name Ascot United but nothing to link them directly to the current club. In 1965, the club had gained permission from the Ascot Racecourse Trustees to convert the land east of coach park 10 into a football pitch. A wooden clubhouse was built and this team went on to win many prestigious trophies in the years that followed.



Various youth teams represented Ascot United over the years up to 1988, and 1992 the East Berks 7-a-side Association was formed by our then Chairman Keith Wicks introducing small-sided junior games and having disbanded in 1980 the men's team also reformed. The club continued to grow, entering into partnership with Charters School and being awarded FA Charter Standard status in 2004. The men's senior team enjoyed early success through the East Berks League gaining continued promotions to the Senior division and winning various Cups including the Fielden Charity Cup in 1996/7. 2001 saw the 1st team join the Reading Senior League and winning the Evening Post Senior Cup at the Madejski Stadium in 2006. Promotion to the Hellenic League soon followed in 2007, followed by promotion to the Hellenic Premier Division in 2009. The club today has grown to become one of the largest Community football clubs in the UK with over 1000 registered players and over 70 teams playing every weekend embracing all ages and abilities from 5 year olds through to Vets. A new clubhouse opened in September 2010, together with an improved main pitch, floodlights and a stand.

The club has enjoyed much success at all levels particularly in the Ladies and Girls Section where they are regularly winners of leagues and county Cups. Last season, our senior Ladies won promotion to the Premier Division of the Southern Region Women's Football League. In 2015, the Under 16 Youth team finally won a Boys' County Cup, and in 2016 both of our Under 15 Boys' sides ended the season with cup victories.

The past decade has been hugely successful for our first team; our debut in the FA Cup in 2011 attracted 1,149 people to the Racecourse on a Friday evening where the famous trophy itself was on display and the match was streamed live on Facebook. Between 2012-13 and 2015-16 we reached the Quarter Final of the FA Vase twice, enjoyed two top-three finishes in the UHlsport Hellenic League Premier Division, and won both the Bluefin Sport Challenge Cup and Perpetua Press Floodlit Cup. More recently, our players' development under outgoing manager Neil Richards took the spotlight, as a host of Yellamen have enjoyed success with other local sides and many of our talented development players stepped up into the first team and subsequently finished the 2017-18 season in style. This season promises to be another exciting chapter in our history under new manager Jamie Tompkins. Tompkins is a well-respected coach, underlined by his term as Football Development manager at Brentford FC and as a vital assistant to Richards last season. Tompkins' promotion also enables Richards to move 'back upstairs' as Director of Football for Ascot United, overseeing player development throughout the club and creating a sustainable pathway for Ascot Youth players to move into Senior football.



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