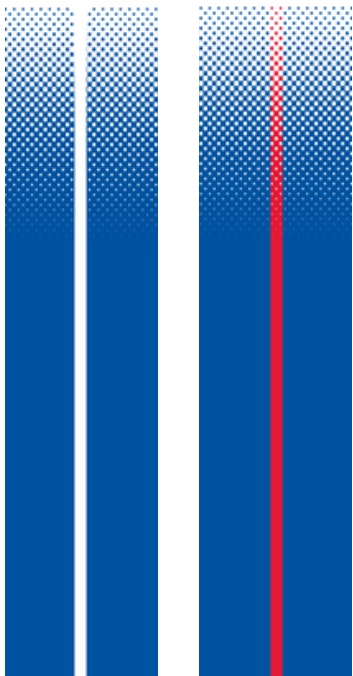


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A BRIEF HISTORY...

Hartlepool United Football Club was formed as a professional club in 1908 from a successful Amateur Cup-winning team, and joined the League in 1921.

Through two minor name changes, Hartlepool United have spent all of their years in the lower two divisions of the Football League, but nonetheless have a fascinating if somewhat chequered history.

The Club moved past their Centenary year in 2008 and are currently enjoying one of the stronger periods since their formation.

Now under the leadership of John Askey, Hartlepool United compete in the Vanarama National League as they look to bounce back following relegation.



Hartlepool United Football Club
The Suit Direct Stadium
Clarence Road
Hartlepool
TS24 8BZ

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enquiries@hartlepoolunited.co.uk
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CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

RAJ SINGH

Good afternoon and welcome everyone to the Suit Direct Stadium for today's fixture against Woking.

Last week's defeat at Oxford City was a horrendous and strange result. We were winning 2-1 and were very comfortable in the game. I remember sitting there around the hour mark and thinking that's got to be the most one-sided game I've seen since I've been at the Club, and at the same time thinking that we need another goal to give us the buffer so we could see out the game a bit more comfortably. Two minutes later, Oxford got an equaliser and we all know what happened after that. It was a complete shock to everyone's system but these things happen in football every now and then. You've got to learn from your mistakes and weaknesses and try to rectify them going forward.

On that note, John and his coaching staff know exactly where those weaknesses are and they are trying to put them right, whether that be on the

training pitch or changing personnel. We all speak regularly on where we need to strengthen and bring new players in, but at the same time not to rush into making harsh decisions because that's when mistakes get made. All the team are working very hard to strengthen the playing squad to give us every chance of staying amongst the front runners in this league. Hopefully you will see some incomings soon.

I'd like to take the opportunity to welcome our guests for this afternoon, Woking. I hope they've had a safe journey to the North East and I wish them well for the rest of the campaign.

Keep getting behind John and the squad today, and hopefully they can continue with our brilliant home form.



■ RAJ SINGH

CAPTAIN'S COLUMN

DAVID FERGUSON

Good afternoon everyone and welcome back to the Suit Direct Stadium for today's fixture against Woking.

We can't dwell on last week's defeat. One game doesn't define our season - we've got to give a reaction today against Woking.

From what I've seen, they're a big side and will have a way of playing compared to us. It'll be a different sort of test compared to what we've faced so far this season. I'm expecting a tough game where we'll be testing the different areas to our game.

We take confidence into the game since we're playing at home - the record speaks for itself. The fans help massively and we need to give them something to shout about, as we have done with every other game at the Suit Direct so far.

We need to continue with our home form and build on that when we do go on the road. Looking back at last weekend, we were the better side for 60 minutes and controlled the game. Unfortunately, we lost our rhythm and made a few individual errors and couldn't recover.

With the fans behind us at home, it's a completely different atmosphere and a different game. If we do slip up, we'd feed off that energy and get back into the game. We'll be ready to head into battle today and fingers crossed we can get back to winning ways.

Thanks for your support and enjoy the game today.



■ DAVID FERGUSON



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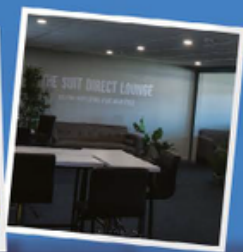
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Dene Field

GIS graduate, First Team Analyst and Coaching Assistant at **Watford FC Women**

They say if you have a job that you love you'll never work a day in your life and I genuinely feel like that.

Mya Graham,
UCFB graduate, Assistant Producer at **talkSPORT**



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TRANSFER NEWS

WELCOME AGHATISE

Hartlepool United are delighted to announce the signing of attacking midfielder Osazee Aghatise.

The 20-year-old joins after playing for Derby County over the last three seasons, where he made five first-team appearances.

Aghatise also spent time at Manchester United and City as a youngster, as well as Stoke City. He puts pen to paper for Pools after impressing in training over the last fortnight.

Aghatise will wear the number 19 shirt at the Suit Direct Stadium and be available for selection against Woking on Saturday afternoon.

First-team manager John Askey stated: "Osazee is a good, young talent with a



good pedigree. He impressed at Derby and played a few games at senior level. I watched him last season - he's got ability but it's about bringing that out.

Hopefully he can take his chance and make a difference to us." Young keeper Josh Mazfari has also joined Pools after a spell with Huddersfield Town.

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#HERGAMETOO

Today we welcome Gavin Coleman who tells us about the U23's team from Hartlepool United Women FC, their ethos on community-based partnerships and the role HerGameToo can play in women's football.

"I'm Gavin Coleman, assistant coach for HUWFC U23's. Our manager is Paul Jeffries, and we are currently looking for another coach to join our team.

Our home venue is at Greatham Sports field off Station Road in Greatham. Our match kick-off times are 2pm Sundays and all support is welcome.

We currently train at East Durham College in Peterlee and our winter training will be at West Hartlepool Rugby Club. We would like to thank the residents of Greatham for their support towards the team. We have developed a partnership with the village community groups where we support each other and are making the game inclusive for all ages as well as improving community integration, health and well-being.

We are having our first season in the women's football leagues, playing in the Durham County FA League One.

Last season we were unbeaten and won the Russell Foster Youth League U18 Southern Division. Following this we felt that now was a great time to take the step up into the women's leagues even though we have a very young team. Paul Jeffries has managed the team since 2016 and the team has had a lot of success and developed a very attractive style of play. What is great is that there is still some of



the girls who originally started at that time still part of the club. I have been assisting with the team for just over a year. I was the typical dad on the sidelines who just wanted to help and when the previous coach stepped up to be the women's manager, Paul needed some support to keep the team going. I was happy to help and a few months later I had my badges as was ready to go. We all just love

the game, and we want to create a positive environment where the girls, their families and our supporters can come and enjoy themselves.

It's been great to see the women's game take off and the success of the Lionesses which is an inspiration to all young footballers. The national game does need to produce a more evenly distributed financial model which find its way

to the lower tiers. It is a constant battle provide basic facilities with limited resources and will continue to be heavily reliant on sponsors, volunteers and goodwill.

We are appreciative as a team that we have great backing from our sponsors (opportunities still available), community groups, families, and supporters and if we didn't have their backing the team would struggle. Increased integration between men's and women's teams including community initiatives would be great to continue this development. The women's game is becoming more commercially lucrative in the higher tiers. It would be good if professional men's clubs, especially those in lower leagues, saw this as mid to long term opportunity to invest in their women's squads and create a club model which would be to the benefit of both their men's and women's teams.

There are now four to five women's teams in the town which is incredible and it's going to create lots of opportunities for girls to progress in the game.

But we do need better facilities and for stakeholders to work together to grasp the opportunity. I think most people would agree the town has missed opportunities over the years to put itself on the map and it would be a shame if in 5 or 10-years' time the town hasn't progressed a women's team further up the football tiers due to resources because the talent is there. Her Game Too is a brilliant concept, and you can see the tangible impact it has had on the women's game across the town and country. A great example is the backing it gave to an event we had in Greatham a couple of weeks ago. We held a walking football match between female residents of the village and some of the U23's team. The age range of the players at the event were between 16 and 95, including 4 generations from the same family, which might be a record! As a team we believe in social value and the positive social impact a football team can have in the community. We would love to do more events in the community and to show

that it's a two-way relationship and not just about people investing in the team but the team investing in the community. The Her Game Too campaign not only gives these events a focal point but is now a platform for promotion and publicity as it's a recognised brand. It also a way for women within the game to share their stories and to demonstrate there is exciting opportunities within football for women and for girls to aspire to."

Many thanks to Gavin for giving us insight into the HUWFC U23's team. It's great to hear how the team are really working within the community as they grow and develop their support base and home ground in Greatham. Partnerships are about working together for the benefit of not just the partners but the whole community. We hope our partnerships with HUFC, HUCSF, grassroots clubs, supporter's groups, local businesses and education providers will result in improved community relations for everyone across the town and wider area.
The HerGameToo HUFC team



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LAST GAME

OXFORD CITY 5-2 HARTLEPOOL UNITED



Hartlepool United went from strolling to being steam-rollered at Oxford City, where they were defeated 5-2.

Pools went in front on 16 minutes and this time ace goal-getter Mani Dieseruvwe was the provider.

The striker nodded Luke Hendrie's cross from the right-back position across goal where Joe Grey headed into the keeper's bottom right corner.

The Hoops pulled level in the 33rd minute when Oliver Sanderson converted Nya Kirby's low cross from the right with a low first-time finish.

Callum Cooke found the target five minutes before the break for Pools. There was a nice steady build-up by

Pools before Cooke curled his shot into the top left corner from 20 yards.

However in the second half, Pools fell apart as Canice Carroll, Josh Ashby and Pierre Fonkeu scored for the hosts in quickfire fashion.

That wasn't it though, as Fonkeu added another in the dying minutes to give Oxford City a 5-2 win against John Askey's side.

Pools: Jameson; Hendrie, Onariase, Ferguson; Seaman, Crawford, Wallace (Finney 31, Umerah 74), Cooke, Paterson (Hastie 64), Dieseruvwe, Grey.

Substitutes: Dixon, Lacey.

PLAYER'S NOTES

JOE GREY

Hello everyone, welcome back to the Suit Direct Stadium for today's fixture against Woking.

We've started the season quite well. I know we've had a few blips here and there, but overall it's been relatively positive for us as a group.

Of course, last weekend at Oxford wasn't what we wanted. But we have to learn and take the positives out of that one.

We scored two goals away from home and looked in control for 60 minutes. That's something we can build on going into the next few games.

Nearly 500 fans made the trip with us. That's incredible support but it doesn't surprise me. All the players really appreciate it and we'll need that support once again today.

Personally, I feel in good condition. I struggled with a nigggle at the start of the season but right now, it's the best I've felt in a long time.

I struggled last season. It was hard to get a run of games and that inconsistency affected my performances when I did play.

Now that I've had a run of games, I feel excellent. I'm full of confidence that I'll help the team

and perform to the best of my ability.

I'm also enjoying the system we're currently playing in.



Mani D is great to play alongside. We compliment each other very well and and I'm getting more chances due to playing off him.

It's refreshing to see us play attacking football rather than sitting on the back foot. I'm seeing a lot more of the ball during the game and getting a lot more shots off.

It was pleasing to get

my second goal of the season last week. It was important to get off the mark early against Southend because strikers can lack confidence if we've don't score early doors. And to add to that with a header against Oxford was nice for me personally.

I want to get to double figures this year, if not more. I've started well

on the goalscoring front and hopefully that can continue.

We always want to beat everyone at home. By guaranteeing those wins at the Suit Direct, and picking up points on the road, we'll no doubt be up there come April time. I think the main reason for our home form is down to the fans, so thanks once again.



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MEET THE OPPOSITION

Formed 136 years ago, Woking registered their highest ever league finish last season as Darren Sarll guided them to the National League play-off places.

The Cardinals have played at the Laithwaite Community Stadium since 1922, based in Surrey and holding a capacity of 6,000.

Sarll's outfit currently sit eighth in the table with three wins, three draws and two defeats.

They're unbeaten in four, having wins against Gateshead and Dorking, alongside draws with Maidenhead and Solihull Moors.

Last time out, Pádraig Amond scored in the second half to rescue a point in a one-all home draw.

They've added to their ranks during the week with the loan signing of ex-Poolie, Timi Odusina, from Bradford City.



PREVIOUS MEETINGS

HARTLEPOOL UNITED 1-0 WOKING

NATIONAL LEAGUE | 20 MARCH 2021

Pools came out victorious in the last encounter between the two sides, more than two years ago. Luke Molyneux hit the crossbar early into the affair following Rhys Oates' cutback, while Luke Williams later missed the target from Jamie Sterry's pass.

Woking created several chances of their own but Ben Killip and the woodwork denied the visitors. Eventually, Oates bagged the winner on the 80 mark after Mark Shelton played him through.

HARTLEPOOL UNITED 3-2 WOKING

NATIONAL LEAGUE | 17 FEBRUARY 2018

In an action-packed affair, Pools claimed a narrow win over The Cardinals on home turf. Devante Rodney, Jake Cassidy and Rhys Oates all found the back of the net in the first half to give the hosts a three-goal cushion at the break. However in the last five minutes, Woking pulled two back through Reece Grego-Cox and Jonathan Edwards.

Pools managed to absorb the surging late pressure and hold onto the three points.



THE MANAGER **DARREN SARLL**

Sarll is currently in his third managerial job, having also managed Stevenage and Yeovil Town. The 40-year-old also enjoyed a spell as Watford's Head of Academy in 2018. His playing days were spent in the non-league system, with the midfielder appearing for Bedford, Hitchin and Hemel Hempstead Town. Retiring in 2006, Sarll began coaching in the youth systems of Stevenage, Brentford and Rotherham United. His break into senior management came after Teddy Sheringham's departure from Boro in 2015. Flash forward eight years and Sarll has entered his next challenge with Woking, where he reached play-off football last season.

ONES TO WATCH



SHOT-STOPEPR **WILL JÄÄSKELÄINEN**

Will, the son of former Bolton and Finland keeper Jussi Jääskeläinen, holds over 100 Football League appearances. The shot-stopper lists Crewe and Wimbledon amongst his former clubs.



ROCK SOLID **SCOTT CUTHBERT**

The Scottish centre-back has scored two goals has scored two goals from seven appearances this season. A Celtic youth product, Cuthbert played over 100 times for Swindon, Luton, Leyton Orient and Stevenage. He joined Woking in June 2022 and played on 45 occasions last campaign as The Cardinals finished fourth in the National League.



FAMILIAR FACE **PÁDRAIG AMOND**

Irish forward Amond scored 15 goals for Pools in 53 appearances in 2016 and 2017. The experienced striker has also turned out for Accrington Stanley, Morecambe, Grimsby and Exeter. He signed for Woking after a five-year stint with Newport County, where he enjoyed 200 outings.



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WOMEN'S UPDATE

Hartlepool United Women got off to a frustrating start to their 2023/24 season, losing 5-3 to Spennymoor Town in a pulsating affair at Grayfields.

Despite twice going ahead, a tough last half hour cost Pools the points.

A repeat of last year's opening fixture and a game between two recently promoted sides, the tie was always set up to provide entertainment and both teams went at it right from the first whistle. Spennymoor had the first shot of the game through Caitlin Bates but Pools keeper Lauren Ranson was equal to it.

The breakthrough came in the 25th minute. Some strong midfield play between Anya Geary and Lauren Gray played in Steph Bilcliff and the Pools forward slid the ball under the onrushing goalkeeper to make it 1-0.

The visitors turned the game on its head through two set pieces. Ranson had done well to deny Bates's 25 yard piledriver from finding the top corner but from the resulting corner, Bates whipped a delivery towards the back post that went all the way in.

Spennymoor took the lead in the 37th minute. Bates again swung another delivery in which was guided in by Alice Welch-Davison.

Pools weren't downhearted for long and were level within three minutes. A quickly taken throw-in from Bilcliff played in Geary and set up Foster to slide home the equaliser.

After the break, Pools picked up where they had left off and went ahead in the 53rd minute. Zara Johnson played Robyn Foster through on goal and the Pools number seven made no mistake to finish and put her side 3-2 ahead. As the second half wore on, the visitors gained more momentum and quickly found yet another equaliser. A shot from distance was spilled and Katy Hemmingway poked in a rebound from close range.

Spennymoor took the lead in the 74th minute. After Hartlepool failed to clear their lines, Courtney Mole struck from just inside the area to put Spennymoor in front.

Three minutes later and the visitors had all but sealed the victory. A 30 yard strike from Hemmingway flew into the top corner and consigned Pools to an opening day defeat.

Craig Bage's side did still have chances and could count themselves a little unlucky not to have reduced the deficit. Zara Johnson saw a shot saved late on and an injury time Atalia Robinson effort rattled the crossbar.

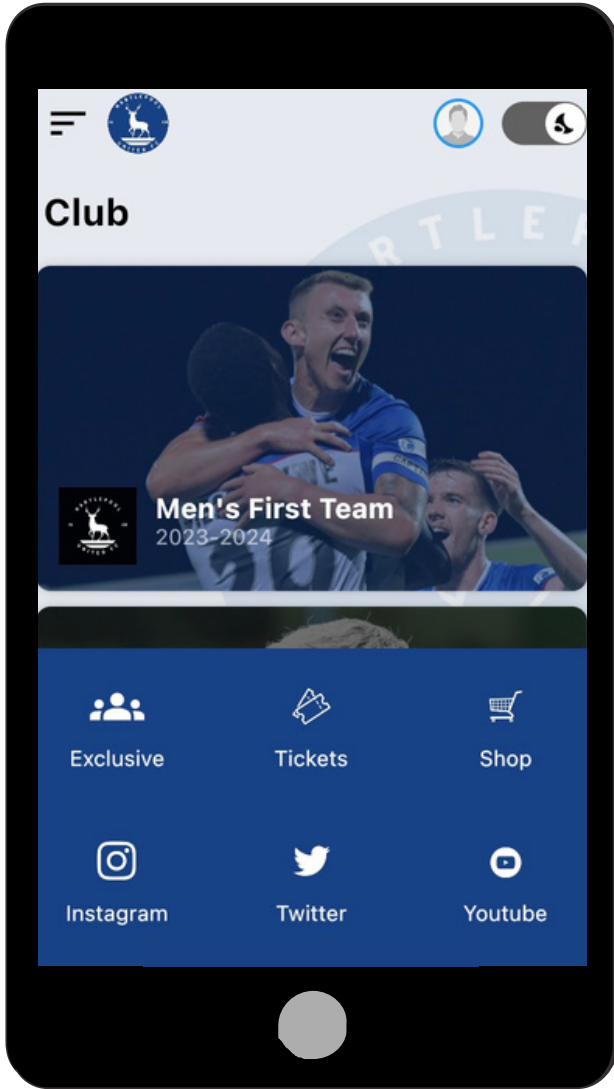
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ACADEMY

HARTLEPOOL UNITED 3-4 PRESTON NORTH END

The young Poolies were defeated in the EFL Youth Alliance Cup at home to Preston North End Academy last week.

Pools trailed for the majority of the game but a spirited comeback saw the hosts draw level to make it 3-3.

The deciding moment came in the dying minutes, as a Pools own goal handed Preston the win.

Youth team coach, Ian

McGuckin, commented: "I felt sorry for the lads with how the game ended.

There were lots of positives we took out of the game - mainly the attitude and character on show.

We want to use that second half performance and really build on it for the coming weeks.

Next up, we've got Mansfield Town at home on Saturday morning so that'll be another

tough game for us.

We rotated the squad last weekend but we've got a few more knocks so it may be another chance for the other lads to impress and show us what they can do."

Despite last week's cup defeat, Pools remain undefeated in league action with two wins and a draw.

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COMMUNITY SPORTS FOUNDATION



The Hartlepool United Community Sports Foundation (HUCSF) are delighted to announce a new programme designed at helping Young Carers in Hartlepool with the help of a generous donation from the Miller Homes Community Fund.

HUCSF is using the funding to contribute towards the costs of running a sports and fitness programme for young carers between 12-16 years old, who do an admirable job taking on the everyday responsibility of looking after parents and, quite often, siblings.

The Foundation are offering some respite from their caring duties by allowing them to take part in multisport activities with other carers, giving them the opportunity to unwind and socialise with like-minded people whilst getting physically and mentally fitter. The activities are designed to build confidence, promote teamwork and develop communication skills and include various team and individual sports.

Dean Cartwright, Head of Health and Wellbeing, commented: "This is an exciting project for the team here at the foundation and we're delighted with the funding received from Miller Homes.

We are delighted to work in partnership with them; their contribution has helped us get the project beyond the planning stage and offers us the chance to reward all the young carers in the town that undertake their roles so selflessly."

We're hoping for more positive outcomes from the team at the Foundation who are once again punching well above their weight in their mission to help Hartlepool become a better place. We promise to keep all you devoted Poolies up to speed with the project as it develops.





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Lucy, Age 7

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**Kaleb, Age 11
Kaidan, Age 7**

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Match!**



Esme, Age 6

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**First
Match!**



Hazel, Age 5

OUR MASCOT



HARRISON CHARLTON

Age:
9

Favourite Hobbies:
Football, reading & lego

Attends:

St Helen's Primary School

Favourite Hartlepool Player:
Charlie Seaman & Josh Umerah





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HARTLEPOOL UNITED VS WOKING



Manager: John Askey

1. Joel Dixon
2. Daniel Dodds
3. David Ferguson
4. Matty Dolan
5. Alex Lacey
6. Kieran Wallace
7. Jake Hastie
8. Anthony Mancini
9. Josh Umerah
10. Callum Cooke
11. Chris Wreh
12. Joe Grey
13. Pete Jameson
14. Oliver Finney
15. Edon Pruti
16. Josh Mazfari
18. Kieran Burton
19. Osazee Aghatise
20. Mani Dieseruvwe
21. Charlie Seaman
22. Tom Crawford
23. Manny Onariase
24. Brody Patterson
27. Luke Hendrie



Manager: Darren Sarll

2. Dan Moss
3. Josh Casey
4. Scott Cuthbert
5. Greg Taylor
6. Luke Wilkinson
7. Ricky Korboa
8. Robbie Willmott
9. Reece Grego-Cox
10. Pádraig Amond
11. Dennon Lewis
12. Matt Robinson
14. Rhys Browne
15. Nana Boateng
16. Tunji Akinola
17. Jim Kellermann
19. Charlie Wakefield
20. Zak Bradshaw
21. Manny Oyeleke
22. Will Jääskeläinen
23. Jermaine Anderson
24. Rohan Ince
28. Sam Habergham
/ Timi Odusina

MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee: Michael Barlow

Assistants: Scott Taylor & Micheal Johnson

Fourth Official: Macauley Gibson



NEXT UP AT THE SUIT DIRECT



SOLIHULL MOORS
TUESDAY 26 SEPTEMBER
7:45PM KICK-OFF