

= A.F.C. Sudbury =

A.F.C. Sudbury is a semi @-@ professional football club from Sudbury , Suffolk , England . The club was formed in 1999 by the merger of Sudbury Town and Sudbury Wanderers , the process giving rise to the name Amalgamated Football Club Sudbury . A.F.C. Sudbury won the Eastern Counties League Premier Division five seasons in a row and reached the final of the FA Vase three years in a row , both records for the respective competitions . Their home ground is the King 's Marsh Stadium in the Ballingdon @-@ Brundon area of Sudbury , and their home colours are yellow and blue . The club currently play in the Premier Division of the Isthmian League .

= = History = =

A.F.C. Sudbury was formed on 1 June 1999 by the amalgamation of the town 's two previous clubs , Sudbury Town ( founded 1885 ) and Sudbury Wanderers ( founded 1958 ) .

In their debut season , 1999 ? 2000 , Sudbury finished in third place in the Eastern Counties League Premier Division . The following five seasons all resulted in Sudbury winning the Premier Division title ? a league record . Sudbury did not take promotion at any of these opportunities , despite being entitled to . In this period Sudbury had a series of good performances in national cup competitions . In 2000 ? 01 the club reached the first round of the FA Cup , where they were beaten 6 ? 1 by Darlington . They reached the semi @-@ final of the 2001 ? 02 FA Vase , before being knocked out by Tiptree United . The following three seasons saw Sudbury reaching the final each year ( a Vase record ) , but being defeated every time , by Brigg Town in 2003 , Winchester City in 2004 and Didcot Town in 2005 . However , the club did win the Suffolk Premier Cup three times , in 2001 ? 02 , 2002 ? 03 and 2003 ? 04 .

The financial constraints of owning two grounds led the board not to apply for promotion until the beginning of the 2005 ? 06 season . After finishing third in 2005 ? 06 , a season in which they won the Eastern Counties League Cup , and passing the necessary ground inspection Sudbury were invited to take promotion into a resurrected Isthmian League Division One North , following the re @-@ structuring of the National League System . Potential legal action from the Northern Premier League nearly scuppered this move , but Sudbury started 2006 ? 07 in the new division . The management team of Gary Harvey and Michael Cheetham , who took the team up , both resigned before the season could begin , citing work and family commitments , respectively . New manager Mark Morsley was appointed in May 2006 , signed from Needham Market . Sudbury 's first season at this level saw the club finish in fifth place , qualifying them for the promotion play @-@ offs . After beating Enfield Town in the semi @-@ final , Sudbury lost to Harlow Town in a penalty shoot @-@ out . Sudbury again qualified for the play @-@ offs in 2007 ? 08 , finishing second in the table , but were defeated in the semi @-@ final by eventual winners Canvey Island . In the close @-@ season manager Morsley resigned , and was replaced by his assistant Nicky Smith .

Sudbury were moved into the Southern League Division One Midlands for 2008 ? 09 following a restructuring of the English football pyramid . After two seasons of mid @-@ table finishes the club was moved back to the Isthmian League Division One North for 2010 ? 11 . Smith resigned in September 2011 and was replaced by his assistant Chris Tracey . At the start of the 2013 ? 14 , Sudbury appointed Wroxham manager David Batch as their new manager , after Chris Tracey left the club . Sudbury reached the final of the Isthmian League Cup in April 2014 , but lost 3 ? 0 away to Maidstone United . Batch left to join St Neots Town at the end of 2014 , and was replaced by Jamie Godbold . Godbold led the club to a third @-@ place finish and qualification for the play @-@ offs , where they were defeated by Brentwood Town in the semi @-@ final . The following season Sudbury won the division with three games to spare , earning promotion to the Premier Division .

= = = Season @-@ by @-@ season record = = =

= = Other teams = =

### == Reserve team ==

The A.F.C. Sudbury reserve team initially played in the Reserves section of the Eastern Counties League before joining Division One of the league at the start of the 2013 ? 14 season , at which point it was renamed AFC Sudbury Reserves / Under @-@ 21s . In the team 's second season in Division One they won the First Division Knock @-@ Out Cup , after beating Great Yarmouth Town 1 ? 0 .

### == Women 's team ==

The A.F.C. Sudbury women 's team took over Sudbury Wanderers ' place in Division Two of the Eastern Region Women 's Football League in 1999 . However , they dropped out the league at the end of the 2001 ? 02 season . They returned to the league in 2010 , and were placed in Division One North . After being promoted from Division One North at the end of the 2014 ? 15 season , they currently play in the Premier Division .

### == Youth teams ==

The club 's academy team plays in the Eastern Counties Youth League , whilst it has two under @-@ 19 teams in the Football Conference Youth Alliance . In addition to an under @-@ 16 team , it has youth teams for every year group from age 7 to 13 .

### == Colours and badge ==

A.F.C. Sudbury 's club colours are yellow and blue , the same as those of Sudbury Town . The club 's second choice kit , usually when away from home , is all red with white trim , although in past seasons other colours have been used , such as all white in the 2007 ? 08 season .

The club badge is the town crest of Sudbury , which incorporates a talbot dog with its tongue sticking out .

### == Ground ==

A.F.C. Sudbury play their home games at the King 's Marsh Stadium in the Ballingdon @-@ Brundon area of Sudbury , previously home to Sudbury Wanderers . Between June 2010 and August 2014 , due to a sponsorship deal , the ground was officially titled The MEL Group Stadium . At the time of A.F.C. Sudbury 's formation the ground consisted of two pitches , a training area , clubhouse , floodlights , a 200 @-@ seat stand on the West side of the main pitch and covered ends behind the goals . A 300 @-@ capacity terrace ( the Shed ) was constructed on the East side of the pitch in 2000 and houses the more vocal section of the crowd . A new clubhouse , also containing a grassroots football and education centre , was completed in 2010 . The ground is fully enclosed by fencing and there are turnstiles at the main entrance .

A.F.C. Sudbury sold Sudbury Town 's former ground , the Priory Stadium , to a housing developer in June 2007 . The money from this sale was earmarked for paying off loans , and capital gains tax , as well as a new clubhouse and changing rooms . Planning permission for the construction of the new facilities was granted by Babergh District Council in August 2008 , though various conditions regarding issues such as possible land contamination , the site 's archaeological value , risk of flooding and drainage are required to be addressed before work may commence .

A 3G artificial turf pitch was installed prior to the 2015 ? 16 season .

### == Honours ==

Isthmian League

Division One North champions : 2015 ? 16

Eastern Counties League

Premier Division Champions : 2000 ? 01 , 2001 ? 02 , 2002 ? 03 , 2003 ? 04 , 2004 ? 05

League Cup winners : 2006

Suffolk Premier Cup

Winners : 2002 , 2003 , 2004

= = Records = =

Best FA Cup performance : First round proper , 2000 ? 01

Best FA Trophy performance : First round , 2006 ? 07 , 2008 ? 09 , 2010 ? 11 , 2014 ? 15

Goalscorer : Gary Bennett , 172

Appearances : Paul Betson , 376