

Hitchin Football Club



Hitchin Football team - Winners of the Herts County Cup 1897-98



REV ANDREW AMOS -
PLAYED FOR (HITCHIN) CORINTHIANS &
ENGLAND, 1885 -
HOME ST 1886 HITCHIN.
FRIEND OF CORBOLD, FRINGE OF DRIBBLE

The Rev Amos, an early Hitchin player and also played for England and the Corinthians.

Hitchin Football Club originated in 1865, playing at Hitchin Cricket Ground. It was set up by William Tindall Lucas and Francis Shillitoe.

In 1871, the Football Association decided to set up a Challenge Cup competition in which all clubs could compete. Sixteen clubs contributed to the £25 needed for the trophy, including Hitchin. This was the first association football competition in the world, the FA Cup.

Hitchin drew with Crystal Palace 0-0 in the first round, but lost 5-0 to the Royal Engineers in the second round.

In 1885 Hitchin was one of the founder members of the Hertfordshire County Football Association, and won the Herts Senior Cup 14 times between 1895 and 1943.



Hitchin Town Football Club toured in the late 1940's and 1950's to Holland and France. During these tours they never lost a single game.



Hitchin badge

In 1901 the club turned professional, with initial success. However, resignations and internal politics, combined with a lack of interest led to its collapse just before World War I began.

So from 1914 to 1928 the main club in Hitchin was the Hitchin Blue Cross. This had its origins in the Blue Cross Temperance movement, which encouraged sporting activities and discouraged drinking.