

# *GroundhopUK*

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## **North Berkshire Football League**

Groundhop 20 September 2014

Following hard on the heels of another very successful NBFL Hop, we are delighted to announce details of another great visit to the North Berkshire League for 2014. We have some wonderful places in store for you again this year, with a “last chance” ground to visit, and the inaugural James Rennie Memorial Trophy match at a “one off ground”. Once again, it’s a one-day hop, conveniently located for road and rail. We have four games this season, so a longer day than 2013, with our last game not starting until 7.45pm under the Watchfield lights, so please factor this in when booking train tickets. If you are doing the daytrip by rail, we will leave the final game around 9.45pm, and don’t expect to be back in Didcot station before 10.30pm, meaning we’re aiming for the 22.47 to Paddington for those heading back to London.

### **The games**

10am Crowmarsh Gifford v Wallingford Town (Division 1)  
1pm Dorchester v Ardington & Lockinge (Division 1)  
4pm Marcham v East Hendred (Division 2)  
7.45pm Benson Lions v Grove Rangers (Division 3)  
(at Defence Academy, Shrivenham - aka Watchfield)

***The final game will also be for the James Rennie Memorial Trophy; this will be played for each year on the NBFL Groundhop as a mark of how much James loved the NBFL.***

### **The transport**

We will again have Rod, Jane, and Freddy running – our three minibuses!! This has turned out to be a great idea, and quickly became part of the fun of the North Berkshire Hop! Coach hire in the area is prohibitively expensive, and the alternative was to whack up the cost of the coach. We didn’t want to do that, so went with the minibuses and kept it within a realistic budget. We’ll do the same again this year to keep the cost down, and will include pick up and drop off at Didcot Railway Station, or from one of our booked hotels. This is an ideal hop to be ferried around – and in the case of gaining admittance to the Defence Academy, is highly recommended. Sit back, relax, and be ferried to the games!

### **The accommodation**

Not everyone will want to do it in a day, so there is B&B booked in the area for Friday and Saturday if you want to stay over. Simply call or email Chris with your requirements, and it will be booked for you, subject to availability.

### **The tickets**

Tickets are available to include all four admissions with programmes at £15, giving an overall saving on the “on the day” prices. Alternatively, if you are only attending certain matches, you can buy a split ticket, giving admission and programme for your selected game at £4 per game. Your programmes for your selected matches will be saved for you, and you can collect them from us at your first game.

## **Defence Academy, Shrivenham (Watchfield) – Special arrangements**

Our final game takes place at the Defence Academy, Shrivenham (aka Watchfield). Like RAF Benson last year, this is a working military base, and entry is restricted – if anything it's even tougher than the airbase. We have been advised by the Defence Academy that the following Security arrangements will apply:

### **1. People on a Groundhop minibus and with a prebooked ticket.**

Security personnel will be waiting with the passes, and will conduct the checks on the coach on arrival at the base. This will be because the booking details will have been passed to the Defence Academy by GroundhopUK for processing at least a week before the event. Those on the coach or minibus should have either photo ID (passport or photo driving licence), or two types of secondary ID (bank statement/ utility bill, both of which must have the ticket holder's name and address on it), which must be exactly as you have supplied with the booking. This is a special concession for the Hop minibus only; **if you do not have photographic ID, please make sure that you are booked on the minibus.**

### **2. People who arrive in their own transport with a pre-booked ticket.**

You will need to report to the guardhouse on arrival with photo ID (passport or photo driving licence), which must be exactly as you have supplied with the booking. Your passes will be waiting, as booking details will have been passed to the Defence Academy by GroundhopUK for processing at least a week before the event. This will speed up processing considerably but considering the volume of tickets we sell, expect some delays. **We have been advised that Secondary ID will NOT be accepted if you are not on the coach or minibus.**

### **3. People who arrive without a pre-booked ticket.**

You will need to report to the guardhouse on arrival with photo ID (passport or photo driving licence), and queue up for a pass. This will take around 15 minutes per person, and will be done strictly in order of arrival and subject to available personnel – there is no guarantee that the base will allow in anyone who is not on the manifest, so please, make sure that you have a ticket that covers at least this match. **Admission without a ticket is solely at the discretion of DA Shrivenham.**

Please remember that these conditions are dictated by the Defence Academy, **not** GroundhopUK. We are there purely at their discretion and we have to comply with any conditions that they set - however strict they may seem. They make the rules for entry to the base, we must follow them.

Time needs to be factored in to clear Security, but by far the easiest and quickest way will be aboard the Hop minibus. **In all cases GroundhopUK cannot be held responsible for anyone refused entry to the base, or anyone delayed at Security. GroundhopUK will also not be responsible for anyone bringing incorrect or inadequate ID.**

In addition, when booking tickets we need to make sure that everyone appears on a proforma; although we can do these for you, and get them to the base by their deadline, please make sure that you note on the form your vehicle details if you are travelling independently. Again, this is a military requirement, they will not issue you a pass without this information.

Last year's game at RAF Benson was a great success, please help us to make this one go just as smoothly by complying with the base's rules and regulations.

**Laurence Reade / Chris Berezai**

**GroundhopUK** for *Grand Days Out* and the North Berkshire Football League

