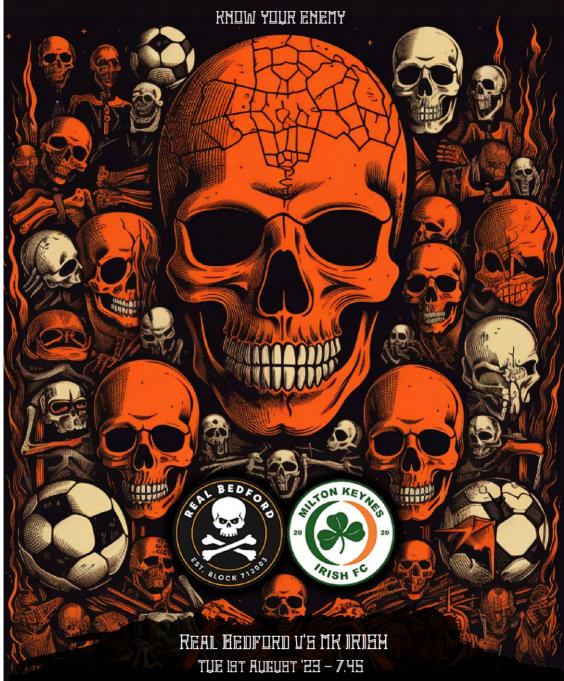
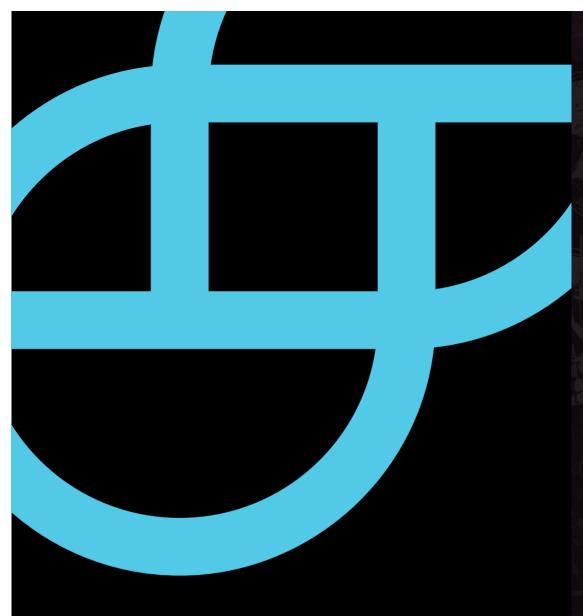
THE WHITE PAPER #21







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CHAIRMAN: PETER MCCORMACK

CEO: EMMA FIRMAN

SECRETARY: NEIL MCCORMACK

MEDIA: WILL ROBERTS

BACKROOM STAFF:

MANAGER: ROB SINCLAIR

ASSISTANT MANAGER: MARK DUCKET

COACH: PETE THORNES

GOALKEEPING COACH: IAN BROWN

PHYSIO: LOTTIE BURTON

KITMAN: CONOR MCCORMACK GROUNDSKEEPER: JACK MUDGE CLUB HISTORIAN: GEOFF SEAGRAVE

REAL BEDFORD LADIES:

CHAIR: JILL UPTON

MANAGER: DEAN PERRETT

ASSISTANT MANAGER: JOE PERRETT

COACH: GEORGIA CLARKE

GOALKEEPING COACH: JOHN FROST

PHYSIO: TREVOR FROST

BEDFORD PARK RANGERS:

CHAIR: JAY ALLISON

CLUB HONOURS:

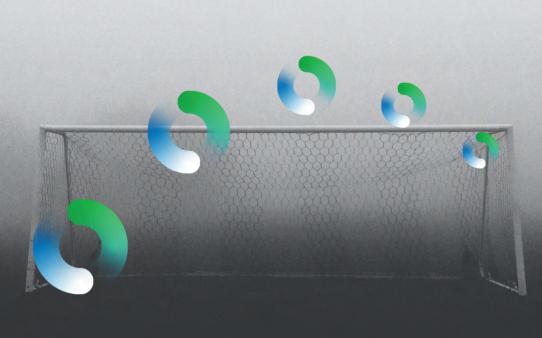
22/23 SPARTAN DIVISION ONE WINNERS

22/23 BEDS COUNTY CUP WINNERS

- PRESEASON REVIEW
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- PLAYER PROFILE
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The Pirates had mixed results during the July preseason fixtures, but there were many positives after facing a schedule dominated by opponents from the league above.

Manager Rob Sinclair had several new signings at his disposal, and the scheduled games provided an excellent opportunity for the coaching team to assess the new look Real Bedford side under various conditions before the start of the league campaign.

Reflecting on the preseason games, Sinclair expressed his satisfaction, saying, "I'm really pleased with the progress the boys have made over the last month or so. I have a clear vision and idea of how I want us to play football, and I feel that the players have embraced it well, executing it effectively even against challenging opposition."

Notable highlights included a 1-0 victory in the opening preseason game against Step 4 side AFC Rushden & Diamonds. The following Tuesday, McMullen Park was again packed for a clash against Corby Town, with new striker Joey Evans scoring his first goal for The Pirates. While the first half was close, Corby dominated the second half, winning 5-2.

The Pirates bounced back a week after the

defeat in their first preseason away game, securing a convincing 3-1 win over Kempston Rovers, with goals from Luke Knight, Kevin Owusu, and new signing Ben Stevens.

Next, Bedford faced AFC Dunstable at McMulen Park, with the Step 4 side coming out on top. Despite the defeat, it was a chance for the boys to test themselves against a strong side and get some much-needed game time.

To finish preseason, the team travelled to Northamptonshire to face Moulton FC, and after a goalless first half, the team stepped up a gear in the second half securing a 3-0 victory with a brace from Jordan Brown and a glorious free kick from new signing Charlie Smith.

We extend a big thank you to everyone who came out to support the team during the preseason. The team heads into tonight's opening fixture of the league campaign against MK Irish knowing they must be at the top of their game to open the season with a win.

Will Roberts Media & Communications YOU'VE GOT THE LIST WE'VE GOT THE

CASH

NOT THAT KIND OF HASH...

Iuxor.tech



I want to give a warm welcome to the manager, staff, players, and directors of MK Irish.

I'm pleased to be writing my first prematch programme notes, as it means football is back. While we all enjoyed some time off over the summer, we returned to training in June and have worked hard to prepare for Step 5 football.

MK Irish presents a tough challenge for the lads tonight; they are well-organised and finished 5th in a competitive UCL Premier Division South last season. Still, we have prepared well for the game, and the lads can't wait to get onto the pitch.

We had an enjoyable pre-season with some challenging games against Step 4 sides, including wins against Rushden and Kempston, defeats to Dunstable and Corby Town, and we finished preseason with a comfortable win against Step 6 Moulton. All these games were a good chance for the lads to get some game time, and I want to thank all the teams we played for being part of our preseason.

I want to welcome our new signings to the Real Bedford squad, including the additions to my backroom staff. All eight signings have integrated well, and I am confident they will give everything to help us achieve our goals for the season.

Lastly, I want to thank all the Real Bedford fans. Your tireless support throughout last season played a massive part in our promotion. As we enter this new season, your role becomes even more critical. We are competing in a higher league and looking forward to debuting in the FA Cup and the FA Vase.

This season promises new opportunities and challenges, and we are determined to give you many reasons to cheer. Keep coming down and supporting the lads, and bring some of your mates down, too. It all makes a huge difference.

Thank you once again, and here's to an exciting season ahead!

Rob Sinclair Manager



The match today is sponsored by Brewpoint, a local brewer with a rich history in Bedford and the supplier of our draft beer at the club. Thank you to everyone at Brewpoint for getting behind Real Bedford.

Welcome back to McMullen Park. It feels like only yesterday we were celebrating our league and cup double. While we enjoyed those wins, they are in the past now. All that matters is this season and trying to be successful again.

The summer has flown by, and we have been busy preparing for the new season, ensuring we do everything possible to compete for more trophies.

This season brings new challenges as we are competing at a higher level of football, requiring higher standards. Rob Sinclair, his team, and the players have worked exceptionally hard over the summer. Their continued dedication and commitment ensures that we are well-prepared for tonight's opener against MK Irish.

I cannot hide my excitement at our entry into the FA Cup and the FA Vase. We all know the history of the FA Cup, the world's greatest cup competition, and we have a challenging opening tie against FC Clacton on Saturday, 5th August. The FA Vase should be exciting too. It gives every club at our level to play at Wembley, something our neighbours Newport has done twice recently. Our opening tie is at home against Rothwell Corinthians on Saturday, 26th August, and I hope I see as many of you there as possible.

I want to express my deepest gratitude to all our sponsors who continue to support our mission this season. I want to thank Gemini and Luxor for their continued support and warmly welcome Iris Energy, Galaxy, CoinCorner, and Orange Pill App into the Real Bedford family. Without your support, none of this would be possible.

Our work on the club's infrastructure continues apace. We continue our expansion into the ladies' game. After a successful year partnering with Bedford Ladies and Girls, we were honoured that they decided to rebrand as Real Bedford Ladies. Now, over 250 girls, from under 7's to the senior teams, proudly represent The Pirates. I am grateful to Jill Upton, chair of Real Bedford Ladies, for her unwavering support and belief in our vision.

Please join me in welcoming Dean Perrett, the new manager of Real Bedford Ladies, and his team, Joe Perrett and Georgia Clarke. Dean's summer recruitment and efforts with the current team have impressed me. Their pre-season started with a 7-0 victory against Wycombe Wanderers Women, demonstrating the promise of a squad desperate to compete for trophies. They followed this with a tough

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5-1 defeat away to Cambridge United, a team in the division above, and a promising 1-1 draw away to Sudbury, last seasons league champions. It is early days for this new look ladies team but the signs are all positive.

Women and girls football holds immense importance to our club, and I am grateful to Galaxy for sponsoring the ladies' team, enabling us to invest in the squad, equipment, and infrastructure.

On the boys' side, we have extended our relationship with Bedford Park Rangers, boasting 300 players across their junior teams from under 7's to under 18's. We are committed to supporting their development, both in competition entry and coaching support.

Thanks to our sponsor Iris Energy, we have doubled our hardship fund, which is available to youth players across boys and girls football. We recognise that families are under financial pressure and want to ensure that money is never a reason a young person can't play football in Bedford.

We welcome Neil McCormack as our new secretary at Real Bedford, who has been working hard over the summer on our infrastructure strategy. This season we will continue investing in the ground with new floodlights, stands, and dugouts while working on our long-term plans for a new ground and training centre.

This vision drives us towards creating an environment conducive to all our players' growth and the wider Bedford football community.

Reflecting on the past season, our league victory by 9 points and the cup win was monumental. I want to thank you, the fans, for your unwavering support. This support was and will continue to be, the lifeblood of our club as we strive for further success this season.

I want to sincerely thank my team for their tireless work throughout the pre-season. Emma Firman, our Chief Executive, for her instrumental role in preparing the club for the new season; Conor McCormack, taking over kit man duties while Gerry is away; and Will Roberts, for his work on our social media.

Finally, I wish the best for manager Rob Sinclair, his team, and our players as we enter another thrilling season of highs and lows. We have set such high standards and demand a lot from everyone. I expect it will be another exciting season, and I can't wait for the ref to blow the whistle tonight.

Peter McCormack, Chairman



This week we sat down with Real Bedford shot stopper Tyler McGregor. With a record 36 appearances for the club including 20 clean sheets last campaign, the young keeper is looking to start his second season with the club in a positive manner whilst also reflecting on last year's campaign and the club's recent pre-season outings.

It's your second season here at Real Bedford, how are you feeling ahead of the upcoming campaign?

"I'm feeling confident. Last year was such a great experience for me. Coming into a new team was always going to pose some challenges but I feel like I've learnt a lot in a short period of time. Winning two trophies last year has obviously given us a lot of momentum heading into this season and the whole squad is buzzing. I can't wait to get stuck in next year."

What are the key takeaways from last season and how have you personally taken them ahead of this upcoming campaign?

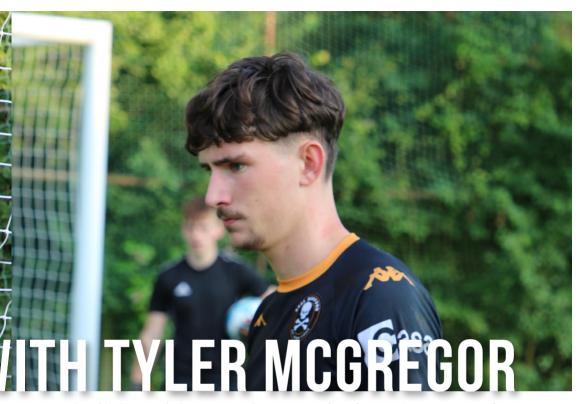
"Rob has a clear idea of how to play which has been implemented since the start of last season, this year we are just looking to develop our understanding of it and our roles within the system. We have a great set of coaches who have helped us review last season and apply any changes that we need to make ahead of competing in this new league. So we're going with the same philosophy, just refining and developing in places."

A mixed pre-season for The Pirates, what have you taken from it?

"Firstly, a lot of running! It's been a really useful pre-season, with the new players coming in and learning the ropes it has given us a chance to gel really well. Testing ourselves against strong opposition as well, which is good, the score lines are almost irrelevant. We've got what we wanted to get out of the games and feel good about the league starting."

Some new additions to the team over the course of the summer, how are the new boys in general settled in?

"The new boys have settled in quite well, we had a great group of boys last year so it's been quite easy for them to integrate themselves into the squad culture. The



signings the club has made have certainly increased the quality of the side which is clear in training, I'm super excited to share the pitch with a few of these lads, they're all very talented."

Another young core of players within the squad, as well as some experience talent. How valuable is it to have a balance in a team like this?

"It's always good to have a balance. I know a lot of us younger, lads have already learnt a lot from some of the more experience players. That being said, the younger core bring that hunger and fresh new approaches to playing the game. We definitely compliment each other."

A lot of called Real Bedford as favourites for the league once more. How do you has a squad deal with that sort of pressure?

We need to take it one game at a time "the gaffer expects us to focus on ourselves so that's what we'll focus on. That said we are confident and know what we want to get out of this season as a whole and we believe we can get promoted again."

We've already seen in preseason. The crowds are increasing week on week. How does the way this project is now being received impact your time here at the club?

"Major credit to Peter and the rest of the team off the field for getting people down to the games. It fills us with confidence, knowing that we have so many people behind us. We're always going to have doubters about this project but those inside the club know how special it is, and really appreciate the support of everyone around the world."

What are you expecting from our visitors MK Irish tonight?

"They'll be strong, they're definitely a team pushing for promotion. I know a fair few of their players from my time at MK college so it will be exciting to share the pitch with them once again, but as I said before we just need to focus on ourselves and we are confident we can get the job done."



A warm welcome back to all the team, staff, volunteers, and supporters. It feels like quite a while since we last hosted league football here at McMullen Park. During the busy off-season, we've been preparing for Step 5 football, as ever there has been so much to do.

You might have noticed some changes around the club since April. We've had work done in the clubhouse, including a complete renovation of the home changing room. Additionally, we've invested in new rehab equipment for our physio, Lottie, who is now fully equipped to help players recover from injuries.

I want to celebrate the club's achievements from last season once again. We won two trophies and experienced a lot of success off the field, setting us up perfectly for the upcoming campaign. Both our men's and women's teams have received new kits and equipment, and we're excited about the new players joining our ranks.

Our new players have integrated into the club environment smoothly, which is fantastic to see. It's always refreshing to welcome new faces. Moreover, we've been thrilled to see many new fans attending our pre-season games. We hope this trend continues into the league campaign.

This season marks an important milestone in the club's history as we've entered both the FA Cup and FA Vase for the first time. Our first game in the prestigious FA Cup competition will be on August 5th against FC Clacton.

On a somber note, we were saddened by the passing of Karen Brown, the well-respected Spartan South Midlands League fixture officer. Our thoughts are with her family and friends during this time, and she will be dearly missed in the local football community.

Finally, I want to wish Rob and the team the best of luck for today's game. We hope all supporters from both teams enjoy their time at McMullen Park tonight.

Emma Firman, CEO



Full name: Joshua Setchell

Nickname: Setch

Date of birth: 26th June 2002

Place of birth: Luton

Previous clubs: Tottenham Hotspur Academ QPR Academy, Harpenden Town

Favourite team: Manchester City

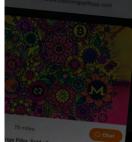
Favourite player: Leo Messi

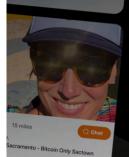
Occupation: Office Manager for a security company

Hobby: Going to the gym













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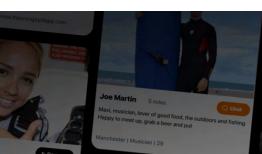
Joe Nakamoto

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McCormack Real Bedford

Filmmaker who produced ComebackCountry.com a short Filmmaker who produced comeback-country.com a snort film on El Salvador which was tweeted out by Nayib Bukele. Currently raising funds for my next film www.21fs.tv

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Jessica Hodir

Coder by day, bitcoiner by night. #bitcoin is hope. We need more men in Bitcoin.

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Matteo Pellegrini 10 miles

AndrejStacks

Here to connect as many Bitcoiners as possible.

California | Founder | 39



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Who's most likely to be late for training?

CJ doesn't know how to tell the time!

Most skilful in the squad?Ben Stevens feet are like glue.

Best Hair?

Me, Jack Grealish would be jealous.

Worst Dress Sense?

Ben Walsh based on our Ibiza trip!

Biggest Coaches' Pet?

Joey Evans, his favourite word is 'Gaffer'.

You're stranded on a deserted island, which teammate would you most like stuck with?

Tom Wood, funniest guy in the world.

Messiest in the changing room?

Tyler McGregor, way too much excess baggage.

Best Banter?

Tom Wood and Luke Knight. No words needed.

Best mate in the squad?

Tom Hitchcock and Ben Stevens could chat to them allday!



There have been some significant changes for the ladies in the offseason. After a successful first year working alongside Bedford Ladies & Girls, we agreed to expand our relationship, and they renamed themselves Real Bedford Ladies. With this, there are now over 250 females playing for the Pirates from under 7's through to the senior team.

Expanding our relationship will bring more resources to the female game in Bedford with better access to facilities, funding, and training.

Chairman Pete McCormack worked closely with Bedford Ladies and Girls Chair, Jill Upton to make this partnership possible. "Over the past year, we've thoroughly enjoyed collaborating with Bedford Ladies and Girls FC, and we take great pride in officially welcoming them into the Real Bedford family. By incorporating them under the Real Bedford Ladies banner, we aim to create an inclusive envi-

ronment that celebrates talent and nurtures a winning mentality. Women have supported men's football for decades - it's time for us to show our support in return. We firmly believe that a modern football club must prioritize and champion women's football. This partnership underscores our commitment to growing the opportunities for girls to play football in Bedford."

Jill Upton, Chair of Bedford Ladies and Girls FC, expressed her enthusiasm about the integration. She said, "We've received tremendous support from Real Bedford and are thrilled to continue our collaboration this season. Peter McCormack's genuine interest in promoting equality in women's football gives us confidence that we will reach new heights."

With the ambition to challenge for trophies, The Pirates decided to change the team's manager over the summer, securing the services of Dean



Perrett as the First Team Manager for the ladies.

Perrett, a former professional foot-baller with experience in the women's game, including a successful spell at Harlow Town, where he guided them to the FA Women's National League for the first time in their history, shared his excitement about the club's vision. "After meeting Peter, I was drawn to the ambition of the Real Bedford project. It's a club dedicated to supporting women's and girls' football, which is what attracted me to the role."

Perrett brings with him Joe Perrett as assistant manager and Georgia Clarke as First Team Coach, and they have been working hard to bring new players into the squad.

The team played their first preseason game at McMullen Park against Wycombe Wanderers, securing an impressive 7-0 victory, followed by a

tough 5-1 away defeat to Cambridge United from the league above. Despite the result, the game had many positives, with the Pirates hitting the woodwork twice. On Sunday, the team recorded an impressive 1-1 draw away at Sudbury, the title winners last year, nearly knicking a win at the end but for the post.

Excitement is also building off the field, with the new arrivals at the club showing the club's ambition to compete for trophies. The Pirates have already confirmed the signings of Sarah Hudson, Amy Reed, Izzy Crooks, Cesca Partridge, Sophie Billing and Gemma Croucher, bolstering the team's strength across the field. More player announcements are expected in the upcoming weeks leading up to the start of the season against Stevenage Women on August 13th.

Coin

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On June 1st 2020 the club was formed when Milton Keynes Robins, Unite MK and Milton Keynes Irish Veterans joined together to operate as one club going into the 2020-21 season, Milton Keynes Irish FC!

Our first season as a club was unfortunately brought to an early finish due to the effects of COV-ID-19. The 2020/21 season was looking to be very promising as we found the first team sitting second in the SSMFL Division 1 table

after 9 games played with the best PPG in the league and went on an exciting run in the FA Vase which saw us get knocked out in the 3rd round on penalties after advancing through 4 rounds beating three higher league opposition. The season was officially curtailed, however due to performances under Milton Keynes Robins, the club earned promotion to the Spartan South Midlands Premier Division (Step 5) based on PPG over the previous 2 seasons.



The first team are back now playing at Step 5 in the Spartan South Midlands Premier Division, after one season in the United Counties Premier League South in 2022-23 finishing in 5th position, the reserve team were playing in the UCL Reserve Division also finished in 5th position in 2022-23 and have moved over to SSMFL Division 2 for the 2023-24 season.

Lanu

The Veterans are playing in the Milton Keynes Veterans League Division One, were triple champions in the 2022-23 season and have been unbeaten in the league for the past 4 seasons.

2021 saw the addition of a Southern Counties U18 Floodlit Midweek team and also had youth teams coming over to join under the MK Irish banner from Scot FC, in 2023-24 the club has 7 youth teams spanning from U9 to U18 in the Milton Keynes & District Development League.

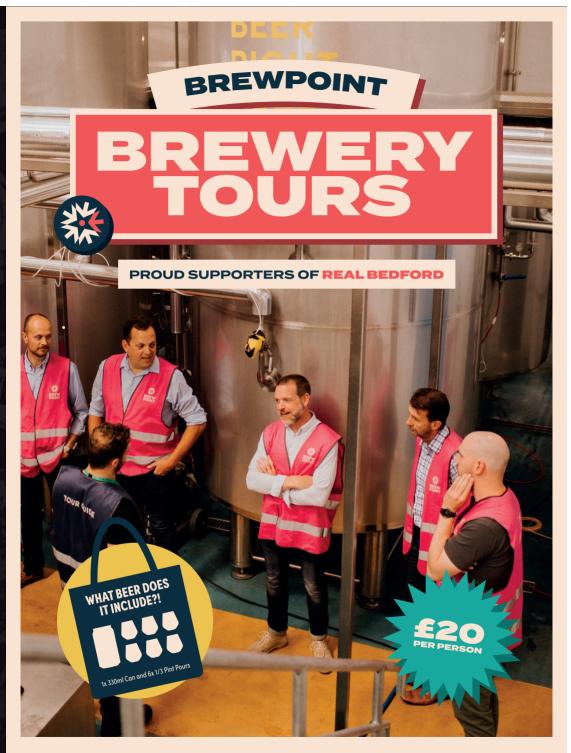
FIXTURE LIST

AUGUST '23			JANUARY '24		
1	MK IRISH	н	6	LEVERSTOCK GREEN	Н
5	FC CLACTON *	A	13	ST PANTELEIMON	A
12	COCKFOSTERS	Α	20	DUNSTABLE TOWN	Н
15	BALDOCK TOWN	H			
26	ROTHWELL CORINTHIANS **	H			
29	ARLESEY TOWN	Α			
SEPTEMBER '23			FEI	FEBRUARY '24	
2	TRING ATHLETIC	A	10	HARPENDEN TOWN	н
9	SAWBRIDGEWORTH TOWN	Н	17	BIGGGLESWADE UNITED	н
12	AYLESBURY VALE DYNAMOS	Α	20	DUNSTABLE TOWN	Α
16	ST PANTELEIMON	H	24	FC ROMANIA	Н
30	LONDON LIONS	A			
OCTOBER '23			MARCH '24		
7	COLNEY HEATH	H	12	LONDON LIONS	н
10	BIGGGLESWADE UNITED	Α	12	MK IRISH	Α
14	STANSTED	H	12	COLNEY HEATH	Α
28	CRAWLEY GREEN	A	12	SHEFFORD TOWN & CAMPTON	Н
31	STANSTED	Α			
NC	NOVEMBER '23		APRIL '24		
4	ARLESEY TOWN	H	12	POTTON UNITED	Α
18	AYLESBURY VALE DYNAMOS	H	12	TRING ATHLETIC	н
25	BALDOCK TOWN	Α	12	SAWBRIDGEWORTH TOWN	Α
DE	CEMBER '23				
2	HARPENDEN TOWN	Α			
9	LEVERSTOCK GREEN	Α			
16	FC ROMANIA	Α			
23	CRAWLEY GREEN	н			
27	SHEFFORD TOWN & CAMPTON	Α			

COCKFOSTERS

^{*} FA CUP MATCH

^{**} FA VASE MATCH





MATCHDAY EQUAD



V



REAL BEDFORD

TYLER MCGREGOR **ALFIE BOZWARD LEWIS BURGESS** JOE STEELE TOM WOOD **CURTIS HARTLEY** MATT CLIFFORD JAMES DUCKET **OLLIE SWAIN** BEN WALSH **REV KALEK LUKE KNIGHT ©** LEE WATKINS **CHARLIE SMITH BEN STEVENS EDDIE CORBIT BEN FITZJOHN** JOSHUA SETCHELL MO AHMED **CLASTON GORDON KEVIN OWUSU ANDY SINCLAIR** JORDAN BROWN TOM HITCHCOCK DAN WALKER JOEY EVANS

MK IRISH

NATHANIEL BEECHER **GEORGE BOLAND** STEPHEN BROOKS **OLIVER COLEMAN** MASON DAVIS LUKE GARDNER **AARON HALAI CALLUM HIRST** OWUSU KYEREMATENG ANDRE OLUKANMI KEELAN SHAND **GEORGE SHRIEVES** NATHAN SMITH RYAN SMITH LIAM SMYTH MASON SPENCE SHAHEIM WARD TYRIO WARD © **CLINTON ZAWE**

MANAGER - ROB SINCLAIR
ASSISTANT MANAGER - MARK DUCKET
COACH - PETER THORNES
GOALKEEPER COACH - IAN BROWN
PHYSIO - LOTTIE BURTON
KITMAN - CONOR MCCORMACK

MANAGER - TERRY SHRIEVES
COACH - GLYN CREASER
COACH - LEE BROWN
PHYSIO - ANDY NICHOLLS

REFEREE - KOVILEN SAWMYNADEN ASSISTANT 1 - FRANK VAN DER WENS ASSISTANT 2 - ADAM MARSH