

THE WHITE PAPER #23

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REAL BEDFORD VS MK IRISH

EMIRATES FA CUP

SAT 19TH AUGUST '23 - 3.00 PM

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PHYSIO: LOTTIE BURTON
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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

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FC CLACTON MATCH

Real Bedford beat FC Clacton 4-1 to advance to the next round of the FA Cup.

After a well-battled draw in the first game, there was tension in the air as the FA Cup tie had to be decided at the home of The Pirates. The game didn't disappoint and got off to a frantic start, with both sides pushing for the first goal in an end-to-end opening 20 minutes.

Both sides had chances to show their attacking prowess, but Bedford came closest to opening the scoring at the 10-minute mark. After finding space down the left, Mo Ahmed put in a low cross for Joey Evans, which he narrowly missed with his outstretched leg, but the ball fell to an on-rushing Clacton Gordon at the back post, whose first-time shot was saved by the right foot of Luke Avenell.

It wasn't long before FC Clacton were posing their own threat, and a well-worked corner gave Mekhi McKenzie a header towards goal; however, in contrast to the reverse fixture, he couldn't find the back of the net.

Moments later, Bedford found themselves on the counterattack, with Ahmed fouled on the edge of the area, giving Charlie Smith a chance to line up a free kick in a dangerous position. Which he converted in style, opening the scoring to the delight of the McMullen Park faithful.

After the goal, Bedford took control of the game without creating another clear-cut chance, so both teams headed into the break with all to play for.

Second Half

Mo Ahmed was forced off with a minor injury at the break, which saw the introduction of Ben Stevens, who made an immediate impact. A strong run from Joey Evans saw his shot blocked by Michael Okafor, but Stevens was on hand to bury the rebound into the back of the net with a clever finish off the inside of the post, doubling Bedford's lead.

With a clear lead, Bedford retook control of the game, but the next goal fell to FC Clacton against the run of play. Good interplay between Charlie Collis and



REPORT

McKenzie in the Clacton attack gave Jack Marshall a chance to get a shot on target, which was initially parried by McGregor but only as far as an opportunistic Teddy Collis, who smashed the ball into a vacant net to half the deficit between the two sides.

The goal gave Clacton a new dose of energy, with the team firing out from the restart and pressuring the Bedford players for the ball. The atmosphere changed, and it felt like Clacton may have the opportunity to equalise, but two minutes later, the home side restored their two-goal lead. With good pressing work up the field, Evans intercepted a Clacton pass before threading a pass through to Josh Setchell, who placed a composed finish under the keeper's legs in a similar fashion to his equaliser in the reverse fixture.

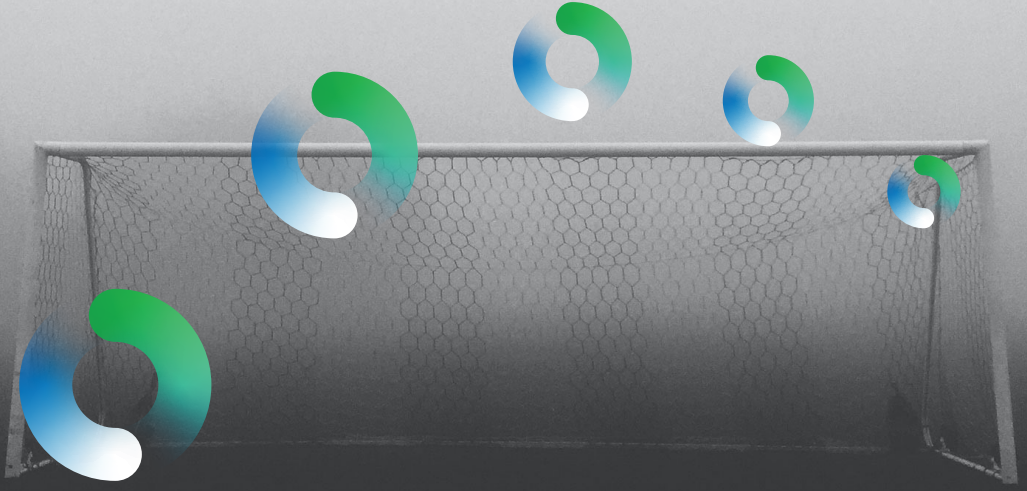
Moving into the last ten minutes of the game, Clacton then looked for their own response. Another corner proved tricky for The Pirates, as Oli Lamb's header forced an excellent save from Tyler McGregor in The Pirate's goal.

Soon after, Real put the game to bed with a second goal for Setchell. A perfectly weighted through ball from Lee Watkins found Jordan Brown on the flank, who drilled the ball back in-field towards an awaiting Josh Setchell, who in turn smashed the ball past Avenell in goal for his brace and Bedford's 4th of the evening and earning him the man of the match champagne.

The victory means that The Pirates will be back in action this weekend to face MK Irish in the next round of the Emirates FA Cup at McMullen Park. Tickets are available in advance on the website.

RBFC: McGregor, Gordon, Burgess, Wood ©, J.Ducket, Smith, Setchell, Corbit (Brown 80'), Evans, Hitchcock (Watkins 65'), Ahmed (Stevens 45')

Unused Subs: Bozward, Hartley, Clifford, Taylor



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FROM THE DRESSING ROOM

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

The FA Cup works in mysterious ways, so having a close rival at home for the preliminary round is an extremely exciting prospect for everyone here at Real Bedford, particularly given the result when we played MK Irish in our opening game of the league three weeks ago.

On Tuesday, we won our FA Cup replay against FC Clacton, and I was incredibly impressed with the boys' performance. In my notes in the programme before the game, I mentioned how pleased I was with the character shown by the boys in the away fixture against Clacton, and their performance on Tuesday was exactly what I asked for from them pre-game. As well as the determination shown to get the win, the fans were treated to some great skill and flair from the lads. It was great to see Josh Setchell in goal-scoring form again. He has scored three goals over the two games against Clacton, all in crucial periods of the matches.

It was also great to see so many fans returning to McMullen Park for the match. To have such a strong attendance on another midweek fixture is amazing to see, and it spurs the players on during the 90 minutes. So thank you to those who continue to show their support on the sidelines.

I also wanted to mention the great work of the Real Bedford Ladies' team. Under the guidance of Dean Perrett, the team comfortably won their first league game of the season 4-1 against Stevenage, one of the stronger sides within the division. Congratulations to Dean, a fantastic manager and all-round individual, for this fantastic start. We will support the team throughout the season as they push for league success.

As I mentioned before, it is rare to play a team twice in such a short time, especially in different competitions. However, I'm looking forward to locking horns with MK Irish again this afternoon, especially after such a competitive first match between the teams the first time around. They have been on a good run of form since we last played them, and fans should not underestimate them based on the previous result. They are a very good side, and we know we have a tough game ahead of us this afternoon. Still, I'm confident that we will be able to push MK Irish for the whole match and hopefully progress through to the next round of this prestigious competition.

Thank you for being so supportive, and enjoy today's game.

Rob Sinclair
Manager



FROM THE BOARDROOM

Hello Pirates, and welcome back to McMullen Park for another round of FA Cup football!

Just four days ago, we won our replay again FC Clacton, ensuring our Wembley dream is still alive. To see 284 of you, in what would have been a record midweek attendance last season, come out and rally behind the team in the middle of a packed schedule is a testament to the growing community around this club. Your support is incredible.

In the four competitive games this season, I've watched this new-look Rob Sinclair side get better and better, from nicking a win in a tough opener against MK Irish to dominating Clacton on Tuesday. Rob's team limited Clacton to just a couple of opportunities while we scored four, and honestly, we could have scored many more.

From the first moment I met Rob, I knew he was the manager who could deliver against our ambitions, but he isn't just winning us games; he is winning us games by playing entertaining football.

I want to congratulate the newcomers to the squad and commend them for the speed at which they have understood what we are trying to do here while also giving a nod to our returning players from last season – and how they have welcomed the new players.

Today, we face MK Irish, who tested us to our limits in the season opener. They are undoubtedly hungry for a win, especially after leaving McMullen Park defeated in the league opener after pushing us all game. They will certainly give us another tough 90 minutes as they look to avenge that defeat.



Tonight we aim to reach the First Qualifying Round of the FA Cup for the first time in our club's history. So let's be as noisy as possible and support the boys all match.

Turning to the Lionesses, what an unreal journey for them these last few years! From winning the Euros two years ago to reaching the World Cup Final against Spain this Sunday. The rise of the women's game resonates deeply with all of us at Real Bedford. As your Chairman, it's my mission to ensure that both the men's and women's teams have access to every resource possible to ensure they can win trophies – whether it is funding, infrastructure, coaching, commercial support or anything else the managers require.

In our journey towards raising up the women's game in Bedford, we have made a lot of progress:

- All our players, regardless of gender,

are now compensated for playing.

- Our men's and women's squads have equal access to training and match facilities.
- We were proud to announce a ladies-specific sponsor - Galaxy.

It's a long road ahead, and we have much more to do, but my vision is clear: our men's and women's teams should have the same opportunities to win trophies for Bedford. This dream, however, isn't just up to us – it requires your support too. Please come out and support both teams, as gate receipts are essential to building a sustainable football team.

Up The Pirates!

Peter McCormack,
Chairman



THE BIG INTERVIEW WITH

This week we sat down with Charlie Smith. The midfielder maestro joined Real Bedford over the summer and has become an immediate fan favourite with a wondrous left foot and control of the game.

How have you found the start to this season?

It's been a positive start. With a new bunch of lads, the beginning of the season is all about trying to gel, and I definitely feel like we're getting there. Rob's style of play is very technical and requires a high level of skill which, for me, is an exciting challenge. We're only going to improve from here, and the result against Clacton on Tuesday has given us some great momentum.

On Tuesday, you bagged your first competitive goal for the club in some fashion. What did that feel like?

It was nice to get on the score sheet. The crowd on Tuesday was rocking, so it was a great feeling to score in front of them. I don't usually get that many goals considering the position I play on the field, so I never take those moments for granted!

You are one of two new signings to start

every game this season. How pleased are you with the consistency of football you're getting?

I'm very pleased. When I joined, Rob spoke to me about the sort of role he wanted me to play in the squad throughout the season, and so far, I've been loving it. We have so many technically gifted players, especially in attack, so it's enjoyable ping-pong passes to them and watching them do their stuff. I now feel like I have the team and the gaffer's trust, which I respect, and I hope to continue on this path throughout the campaign.

Pirates fans have been raving about your free kicks online. How much do you practice your skill from a dead ball?

It's not something I practice too often at all. It has just been something that has come relatively naturally to me since I was quite young. I used to spend time on it after training at Luton Town, perfecting specific techniques, but now I just trust my instinct. I managed to score five last season, and I have already managed two so far in a Real Bedford shirt, so I'm happy with how that's been going so far.

You've spoken openly on social media about your dealings with mental health in profes-



WITH CHARLIE SMITH

sional sports. What experiences have you found most challenging throughout your career?

I've been open about it, as I think it's an essential part of the game. I was at Luton from an early age and was lucky enough to be handed a professional contract. Unfortunately, a year later, I wasn't given another, which left me stranded. It felt like jumping off a bit of a cliff into the non-league world, which was a scary prospect. It's only over the past few years that I've come to terms with that situation.

But I'm certainly not alone. There are lots of like-minded people in and around non-league football who have struggled with the same sort of predicaments. You throw your life into football throughout your teenage years; otherwise, you won't get a contract, and that all comes back to bite you when you're released fairly suddenly with usually no real backup plan. I became an electrician for a bit, then decided I needed to get some qualifications, so I went to the University of Bedfordshire and have now come out with a degree whilst also being able to still play the sport I love, so I'm grateful for that.

How important is it for players to continue talking about these matters, especially in non-league football?

It's being supported and spoken about within the world of professional football a lot more now, which is great, but not so much lower down in the football pyramid. It's a topic that I hope players continue to talk about because, as I mentioned, a lot are in the same boat.

What's the ethos of the club like? Are you really enjoying your time at Real Bedford on and off the field?

Rob, as a player, coach and person, is very mindful of the culture and ethos he instils in us. The bottom line is that we work hard for each other on the field and celebrate that off it. It's a positive culture with many great personalities, making Bedford very special.

What are you expecting from our visitors MK Irish tonight?

As we saw the first time we played them, they're a technical side, controlling the mid-field particularly well. We will look to counter that and hopefully get a similar result. I know it will be a high-quality game of football and one all the lads look forward to.

STACK FRIENDS WHO STACK SATS

Nakamoto 5 miles
Chat
I like to make fun of myself while giving out bitcoin to strangers. I also report, make content and do jOuRnAlIsm for Cointelegraph.
Teacher | 27 | www.theorangepillapp.com

Julian 11 miles
Connect
Co-Founder & CEO @Relai Europe's most popular Bitcoin Onramp! Forbes 30u30.
Los Angeles | Marketing Director

Darvin Otero 100 miles
Connect
Bitcoin Builder CEO/Founder at @TiankiApp first Salvadoran bitcoin-only startup Bitcoiner Maximalis #codingTeam, Master Degree in Computer Science
Los Angeles | Marketing Director | 27

MKW 10 miles
adrenaline, adventure & Bitcoin class of
Florida | 35

15 miles
Chat
Orange Pillar. Sold all my chairs. DCALife. I'm coin beer/coffee meetup anytime.
er | 27

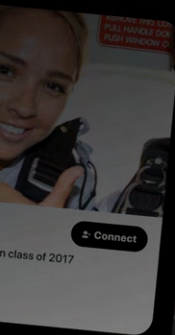
DMeadows 50 miles
Coder by day, bitcoiner by night. #bitcoin is h
London | 29

15 miles
Chat
Sacramento - Bitcoin Only Sactown
7

Joe Nakamoto 5 miles
i like to make fun of myself while giving out bitcoin to strangers. I also report, make content and do jOuRnAlIsm for Cointelegraph.
Lisbon | Journalist

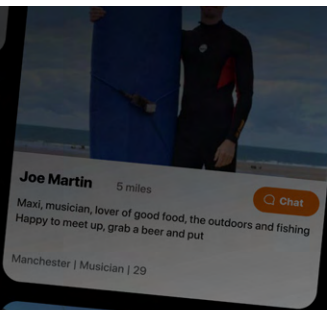
Orange Pill App





Connect

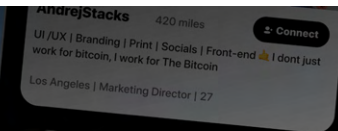
class of 2017



Joe Martin 5 miles **Chat**

Maxi, musician, lover of good food, the outdoors and fishing
Happy to meet up, grab a beer and put

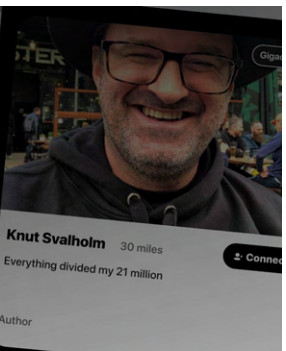
Manchester | Musician | 29



AndrejStacks 420 miles **Connect**

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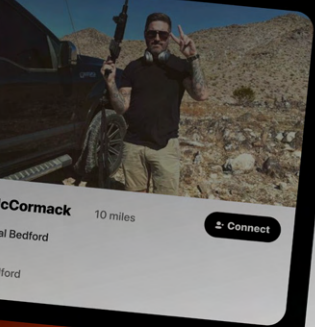
Los Angeles | Marketing Director | 27



Knut Svalholm 30 miles **Connect**

Everything divided my 21 million

Author



McCormack 10 miles **Connect**

Real Bedford

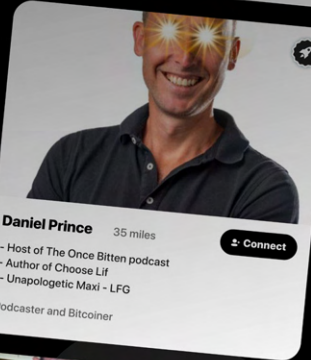
Bedford



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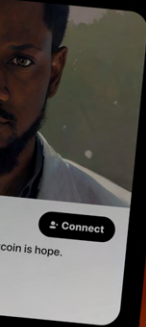
Founder



Daniel Prince 35 miles **Connect**


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- Author of Choose Lif
- Unapologetic Maxi - LFG

Podcaster and Bitcoiner



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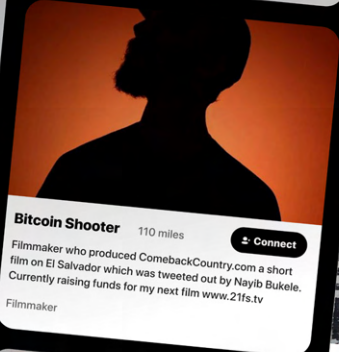
coin is hope.



Coach Carbon 10 miles **Chat**

Every journey starts with a first step... Enter the rabbit hole and free fall to freedom 1/2, Bitcoin is hope, peace & [fill in

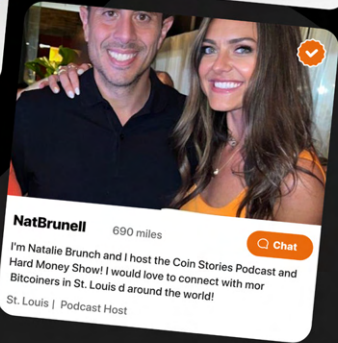
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Bitcoin Shooter 110 miles **Connect**

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

Filmmaker



NatBrunell 690 miles **Chat**

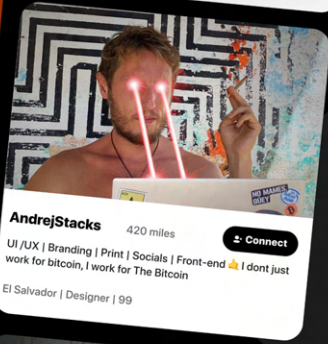
I'm Natalie Brunell and I host the Coin Stories Podcast and Hard Money Show! I would love to connect with mor Bitcoiners in St. Louis & around the world!

St. Louis | Podcast Host



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El Salvador | Designer | 99



Jessica Hodlr 11 miles **Connect**

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

Los Angeles | Marketing Director | 27



Matteo Pellegrini 10 miles **Connect**

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California | Founder | 39



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WE'VE GOT THE

CASH

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TEAMMATES

LEE WATKINS



Who's the fastest in the squad?

Jordan Brown. He may look all shoulders, but his legs move like crazy!

Who's most likely to go on Love Island?

Curtis Hartley loves a holiday and a tan. Not sure he has the chat for it though.

Biggest Spender?

Have to go with Claston Gordon, just off the shoes he wears to training and on game day.

Best Dress Sense?

I'll have to get back to you on that once I've seen the lads in the casual clobber on our first team event!

Who's the most active on the team group chat?

Tom Wood, that man loves a GIF.

You're stranded on a deserted island. Which teammate would you most like to be stuck with?


It's tough, but I'd have to go Woody again! He's guaranteed to keep it entertaining.

Who's in the referee's ear the most?

Luke Knight doesn't have the best track record with officials.

Who's your best mate in the squad?

All the lads have been very welcoming since I joined, but I'd probably have to say, Jordan Brown, as I've known him since my academy days.



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A large, light blue curved graphic element that starts from the left edge and curves downwards and to the right, framing the text.

nCorner

corner.com



THE AWAY TEAM

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 COVID-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.

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

1	MK IRISH	1 - 0 (W)
5	FC CLACTON *	2 - 2 (D)
12	COCKFOSTERS	1 - 1 (D)
15	FC CLACTON *	4 - 1 (W)
19	MK IRISH *	H
26	ROTHWELL CORINTHIANS **	H
29	ARLESEY TOWN	A

SEPTEMBER '23

2	TRING ATHLETIC	A
9	SAWBRIDGEMOUTH TOWN	H
12	AYLESBURY VALE DYNAMOS	A
16	ST PANTELEIMON	H
30	LONDON LIONS	A

OCTOBER '23

7	COLNEY HEATH	H
10	BIGGGLESWADE UNITED	A
14	STANSTED	H
28	CRAWLEY GREEN	A
31	STANSTED	A

NOVEMBER '23

4	ARLESEY TOWN	H
18	AYLESBURY VALE DYNAMOS	H
25	BALDOCK TOWN	A

DECEMBER '23

2	HARPENDEN TOWN	A
9	LEVERSTOCK GREEN	A
16	FC ROMANIA	A
23	CRAWLEY GREEN	H
27	SHEFFORD TOWN & CAMPTON	A
30	COCKFOSTERS	H

JANUARY '24

6	LEVERSTOCK GREEN	H
13	ST PANTELEIMON	A
20	DUNSTABLE TOWN	H

FEBRUARY '24

10	HARPENDEN TOWN	H
17	BIGGGLESWADE UNITED	H
20	DUNSTABLE TOWN	A
24	FC ROMANIA	H

MARCH '24

12	LONDON LIONS	H
12	MK IRISH	A
12	COLNEY HEATH	A
12	SHEFFORD TOWN & CAMPTON	H

APRIL '24

2	POTTON UNITED	A
6	TRING ATHLETIC	H
20	SAWBRIDGEMOUTH TOWN	A

* FA CUP MATCH

** FA VASE MATCH

PLAYER PROFILE



Full name: Jimbo

Date of Birth: 11th May 1991

Place of Birth: Welwyn Garden City

Previous Clubs: Eynesbury Rovers, St Neots Town

Favourite Team: Tottenham

Favourite Player: David Beckham

Most memorable footballing moment: Beating Truro College 2-1 in the England Colleges Cup Final

Occupation: Group Operations Manager

Hobby: Having a young family means I don't have time for a hobby apart from football

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MATCHDAY SQUAD



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
JOEY EVANS

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

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 ZAWÉ

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

REFEREE: ALESSANDRO FRANCONI
ASSISTANT 1: MATTHEW BORG
ASSISTANT 2: EVELYN MCGREGOR