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REAL BEDFORD VS SAWBRIDGEWORTH TOWN
SPARTAN PREMIER DIVISION

SAT 9TH SEPTEMBER '23 - 3.00 PM

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22/23 SPARTAN DIVISION ONE WINNERS
22/23 BEDS COUNTY CUP WINNERS

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ARLESEY TOWN FC M

Real Bedford win 3-0 against Arlesey Town on the road.

The Pirates maintained their unbeaten start to the league with a victory over Arlesey, thanks to another Joey Evans hattrick.

Bedford travelled to Arlesey Town on Tuesday as cup competitions have given limited opportunities to play league matches in August. With some teams having played five league games, The Pirates have only played twice, winning against MK Irish and drawing away to Cockfosters.

In a one-sided affair, Bedford had control of possession for most of the game, leading to the home side having only two shots on target. The Pirates set the standard for the game early on, controlling possession in defence and launching wave after wave of attack, with a defensively set Arlesey looking to hit the visitors on the counter.

The first chance for Bedford came within 10 minutes. After a blocked shot from Mo Ahmed, the ball fell to Lee Watkins, who fizzed a pass out wide to Matt Clifford. The left-back's delivery was inches away

from finding Joey Evans, who rose above the Arlesey defence but failed to connect with the ball.

Eddie Corbit was tested at right-back in the second half against Rothwell and retained the position for this match. Stretching the midfield, he found space in advanced positions and nearly created the opening goal. Taking the ball out wide, he whipped it across the face of the goal, but nobody could get a touch on it.

Real Bedford continued pressuring the Arlesey defence until it finally cracked. A Mo Ahmed run into the box was met with a push on the winger's back from Arlesey defender, Adam Turner, which left the referee pointing to the spot. Joey Evans stepped and smashed the ball past Ollie Skinner in goal to get The Pirates off the mark.

More half chances fell to Bedford as the first half progressed. A good ball across the face of goal from Ben Stevens found Evans, who produced too heavy a touch to get a good strike away. Eddie Corbit also delivered more balls from out wide, which came tantalisingly close to a second goal; however, despite having complete control of the game, Bedford



MATCH REPORT

entered the half-time break with a slender lead.

Second Half

Bedford continued to pile pressure onto Arlesley after the half-time break and, this time, appeared to be getting closer to scoring. Mo Ahmed twice had the opportunity to double the lead. Firstly, he broke into the box and rounded the goalkeeper, but his shot was well blocked out for a corner. His second chance came from a delicate chip over the defence, but Ollie Skinner, in goal, thwarted his attempt to head it around him, keeping the game at 1-0.

As Bedford pushed for the second, the home side came back into the game and put the visitors under concerted pressure for fifteen minutes. Some sloppy passing from the pirates and an increase in intensity from Arlesley shifted the game's balance, and the home side nearly levelled when Bruno Brito broke free of The Pirate's defence, forcing a good parry from Tyler McGregor in goal.

Arlesley's spirited return to the game was ended when substitute Alex Taylor was sent for an early shower. He was shown

two yellow cards in quick succession, the first for a bad challenge on Eddie Corbit and the second for diving.

With a man advantage and with 10 minutes to go, Bedford doubled their lead. The away side worked the play well, finding Eddie Corbit out wide, who crossed the ball into the path of Archie Jones, who in turn laid it off to Joey Evans to stroke into the bottom right corner for his brace.

90 seconds later, The Pirates completed the scoring with Joey Evans getting his second hat-trick in successive matches. This time, Josh Setchell made inroads from out wide before passing to Evans, who wrapped his foot around the ball to curl it into the top right corner from outside the box.

RBFC: McGregor, Corbit, Clifford, Wood, Swain, Smith, Stevens, Watkins, Evans, Jones, Ahmed (Setchell 76')

Unused Subs: Knight, Steele, Gordon, Taylor



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FROM THE DRESSING ROOM

I want to give a warm welcome to the manager, staff, players, and directors of Sawbridgeworth Town. It is great to welcome them to McMullen Park for the first time under the Real Bedford name.

The last few games on the road have been really positive from my perspective. I was particularly proud of our undefeated streak on the road in the previous campaign, so to continue that into this year is a testament to how well the squad have adapted to the changes made in the off-season. The hard work and determination over the past week or so are pleasing to see. To win games and by strong margins shows the players' work ethic extends from the first minute to the 90th, an attitude we have looked to instil as coaches from pre-season.

Today, Sawbridgeworth bring another different yet equal set of challenges to McMullen Park. They'll be hungry to register their first win of the league campaign, so we have to be prepared for anything they could throw at us this afternoon. The boys have trained well during the week and prepared well for this fixture and the trip to Aylesbury Vale Dynamos on Tuesday. With a packed month of league action and an FA Vase fixture with Flack-

well Heath in a fortnight, we know that today's home game will set the tone for this next run of games.

A big thank you, as always, to the home and travelling support the players receive during match days. With the last two league games being on the road, it is encouraging to see fans still making the long journeys to support Real Bedford. The players feed off your energy and positivity, so please continue to bring the noise to every game.

Congratulations to Dean and the Ladies' team, who have continued their perfect campaign start. Having watched the game last Sunday, it is great to see them getting results and playing a great brand of football, too. To have two successful sides at McMullen Park across the weekend is exciting for the club, and we will continue to support the ladies as much as possible as the season progresses.

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

Rob Sinclair,
Manager



FROM THE BOARDROOM

Welcome to everyone today joining us at McMullen Park for our league match against Sawbridgeworth Town. Sadly, I am on the other side of the planet, but I'll be watching the livestream from Sydney, wishing I was there.

After two brilliant away wins against Arlesey Town and Tring Athletic, I hope the team can continue their excellent start to the season. These back-to-back away victories have pushed us to 3rd position in the league, and while we are early, I hope this is a sign that we will be up there competing for the league again come the end of the season.

I want to congratulate the team for their early good form. Despite the disappointing result against MK Irish in the FA Cup, the team bounced back with a 9-1 win against Rothwell in the FA Vase before picking up six more important points in the league, scoring seven goals whilst keeping consecutive clean sheets.

Joey Evans, our new striker, has had an impressive start to the season, registering ten goals and five assists in eight games, and was voted player of the month by

Real fans. But really, I need to congratulate the whole team, our manager Rob and his staff. Rob made several changes to the team in preparation for another title challenge, and the speed at which they have adapted to his style of play is impressive. Not only are we winning games, but we're doing it by playing a style of football that is entertaining, and I hope it continues to bring people to McMullen Park to support us.

I'd like also to congratulate our ladies' team for their impressive start to the season. They have won all three of their opening games, scoring 16 goals with just one conceded — which sees them sitting at the top of the league, an impressive turnaround under new manager Dean Perrett after finishing bottom of the league last season.

On a personal note, as I mentioned earlier, my work takes me away from McMullen Park for the next couple of weeks. I'm writing these notes from my hotel room in Australia, where I'll interview several guests for my podcast. After Sydney, I'll be heading to Lebanon to film a documentary regarding the financial meltdown



in the country. Lebanon has been caught in a debilitating economic crisis marked by rampant inflation, banking crises, and widespread public discontent. Like my recent trip to Argentina, I aim to shed light on these issues.

While a significant chunk of my life, football isn't its entirety. As a journalist, I've always felt a responsibility to present complex economic issues, ensuring that the hardworking majority understand the nuances of financial matters. Protecting the income and purchasing power of the everyday individual remains paramount to me.

As I landed in Australia, I saw a news alert from the BBC — the effective bankruptcy of Birmingham City Council. I don't think they will be the only council under extreme financial pressure as both national and local governance structures grapple with the ramifications of their economic strategies.

You may be wondering why a chairman is discussing things other than football in his programme notes, but the expansive reach and inefficiencies of our govern-

ment remain a deep-seated concern for me. When ordinary families find themselves trapped in a vice-like grip of high taxes and diminishing purchasing power owing to unchecked inflation, it's evident that the system warrants introspection.

I've often highlighted how alarming it is that our government's expenditure on servicing its debt overshadows its allocation to education. Today's educational crisis, which sees schools unable to open as kids return from the summer holidays, is a grim reminder of the ramifications of such skewed priorities. I will continue raising these issues through the football club and my journalism work.

Still, I want you to enjoy the game today, and I hope the team can deliver another great performance and three more points. After the match, if any of this resonates with you, I encourage you to look deeper into how our government spends money.

Peter McCormack,
Chairman



TRING ATHLETIC MAT

Real Bedford completed another statement victory away from home with a 4-0 win against Tring Athletic.

The Pirates put three past the home side inside 45 minutes before a goal from Joey Evans sealed the victory in the second half, pushing Bedford up to 3rd in the Spartan South Midlands Premier Division.

Bedford started brightly and got on the score sheet early on. Lee Watkins produced a searching ball across the field to find Ben Stevens in space. The winger plucked the ball out of the sky, bringing it under his control before trickling it past the keeper for Bedford's opening goal.

Tring pushed hard to get back in the game and showed signs of promise. A strong run from Max Hercules set the home side down the field on the 25-minute mark before Harry Jones

was played in behind The Pirates' defence, only to connect with the side netting at a tight angle.

Five minutes later, Real were in again. Goalkeeper Eric Negaru initially cleared Ben Stevens' lobbed pass, but only as far as Bedford's number 7. He responded with a through ball to Archie Jones, who put the ball past Negaru for his first goal in Real Bedford colours.

Straight off the restart, Bedford was causing trouble again. This time, Mo Ahmed found space on the flank, and his well-weighted cross found Eddie Corbit at the back post, who smashed the ball on the volley into the back of the net to make it three goals in the first half for the away team.

However, The Pirates wanted more, and just before the break, Joey Evans managed to get a shot away from just outside the box, which the Tring



TCH REPORT

keeper parried into the path of Corbit, who stared down a gaping goal but couldn't find the target from close range. The ball rattled the underside of the bar and was cleared out of harm's way by the Tring defence.

Then, with the clock in the red, Lee Watkins managed to dispossess Harry Shepherd in the Tring midfield, launching a Real counter-attack with moments of the half left to play. Archie Jones ran a good supporting line but couldn't find the target, with his shot deflecting off the keeper and into the side netting, denying Bedford from extending their lead before the whistle.

Second Half

The Grass Roots Stadium was treated to a more tame second half, as both sides understood the game was effectively over. However, Bedford finally managed to get their fourth

goal, courtesy of Joey Evans. Ben Stevens placed a teasing ball down the right-hand side of the pitch for Archie Jones to chase. The midfielder cut back before squeezing the ball into the box for Evans to tap home, making Bedford's in-form striker the league's top scorer with ten goals in just eight games.

Tring didn't fold and nearly managed a consolation effort late in the game. With 5 minutes left of the 90, Max Hercules got a shot away after a good run through the midfield from George Carberry. However, the effort did little to trouble McGregor in goal, who now boasts back-to-back clean sheets on the road.

RBFC: McGregor, Corbit, Clifford (Burgess 72'), Wood ©, Swain (Steele 60'), Smith, Stevens (Setchell 65'), Watkins (Knight 60'), Evans, Jones (Gordon 78'), Ahmed



THE BIG INTERVIEW

This week, we sat down with Joe Steele. The central defender signed for Real Bedford over the summer but made his first competitive appearance for The Pirates last weekend after a lengthy stint on the sidelines. Joe talks about his battle with his knee injury and the toll rehab takes on players in non-league.

You got your first competitive minutes under your belt last Saturday. How was that run out?

It felt so good just to be out there playing again. It's been 18 months since my last competitive fixture, so it felt so rewarding to be back on the pitch, considering all the work me and the people around me have been doing to get back to this point. It was also a massive bonus to get the 3 points and keep a clean sheet. The team has been flying, so it's great to join them on the field.

How have you found your time at Real Bedford so far?

It's been amazing. Having only worn the shirt a handful of times, my perspective on joining has been slightly different to others, but the staff, fans and players are all great people to be around. The club has a real

professional feel to it. I love Pete's ambition and how he executes it, and I think Rob's style of play perfectly complements that ambition. I think I've settled in nicely.

You have gradually recovered from a nasty knee injury over the last few years. What has that rehab process been like?

It's been tough. When I initially went under the knife, I basically had to learn to walk again. My family supported me so much with basic needs like getting dressed and getting food that I just couldn't do without help anymore. I also run a gym, so I'm self-employed, meaning whilst recovering, there wasn't any money coming in, which was stressful. So I quickly got myself back to work (albeit in a wheelchair to start) and then got on the long road to recovery.

How difficult is it for players in non-league to battle long-term injuries like that, both physically and mentally?

It certainly has its ups and downs. Having to balance work, football and life in general is hard at the best of times, but when you're injured, it makes everything so much harder. I'm lucky to work in a gym, so my rehab and job went hand in hand, but not many play-



W WITH JOE STEELE

ers are in that position. But you always find a way. I love my job and playing football, so I always knew I'd be able to get back to it soon enough.

What's the biggest thing you've learned in your time on the sidelines recently?

I think I've just learnt how much I love playing football. Having been in the game for so long, you start to take things like training and playing for granted, but after having it taken away from me during my injury, I can appreciate how fortunate I am to do this week in and week out not just on the field but off it. I missed the environment and culture of a football club. The weekend wasn't as fun for me anymore, so returning to a club with such a good culture is very rewarding.

Many fans have noted your size on the field. How do you stay in such shape while considering football's physical requirements?

If I'm honest, I want to slim down a little more. I've always used my size to my advantage on the field, and of course, being a personal trainer, I have a lot of time to build strength and muscle. During my time in

rehab, I probably added on a bit too much, but I've been working closely with Rob and Lottie, who have been amazing during my time away, to help me get to my ideal shape and size.

How much does your job compliment your performances on the pitch?

It means I have no excuses. I'm so fortunate to work in a sporting environment 24/7. I'm also my own boss, which means I can set aside time for my workouts to ensure I'm match-ready.

What are you expecting from our visitors Sawbridgeworth Town today?

It'll be another challenge for us at home, but I'm excited to get some minutes at McMullen Park. The atmosphere has been great when I have come to watch games, so I can't wait to play in one. Hopefully, we can accompany it with another win and keep this momentum from a great start to the season.

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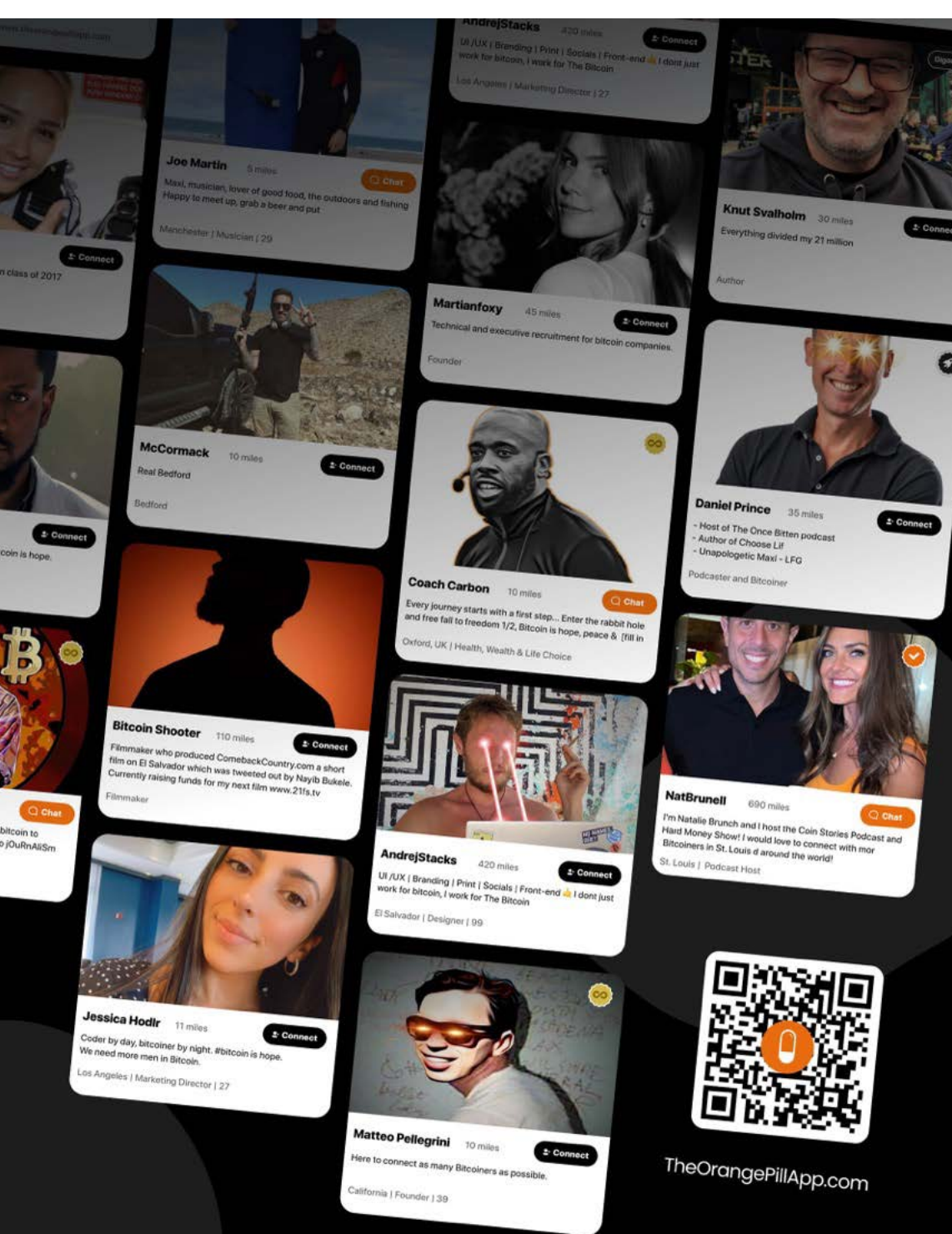
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MKW 10 miles
adrenaline, adventure & Bitcoin class of
Florida | 35

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

Joe Nakamoto 5 miles
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TEAMMATES

LUKE KNIGHT



Who never fails to find the back of the net?

Give either Ben Stevens, Joey Evans or Charlie Smith a chance and they'll take it

Which outfield player would do best in goal?

Joe Steele, he's a big kid. He has a go after training sometimes and stops a few...

Quietest in the changing room?

Tyler McGregor, haven't heard him say more than 3 words in the changing room!

Who's most likely to become a manager after football?

Lewis Burgess is already in teaching so halfway there!

Who's most likely to forget their kit?

CJ, forgets his own name sometimes that bloke!

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

Curtis and Woody, aka the chuckle brothers!

Who's the best driver?

Ben Walsh... 26th time lucky on the driving test I've heard!

Best mate in the squad?

I've played with Hitchy and Woody for a long time, but in truth we're all just one big family!



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A large, light blue curved shape that frames the right and bottom portions of the page, resembling a stylized 'C' or a partial circle.

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FROM THE OFFICE

What is it that makes following a football club fun? Success? Sure. Anyone who has followed a losing team will be quick to confirm that the struggles of everyday living become more apparent on those sombre drives home. I have found myself totting up the cost of every expense such trips have incurred as though I'm hard-wired to extend the pain. Everything is stark and grey. There is no joy. Any mention of football, any football, just results in the misery being re-lived.

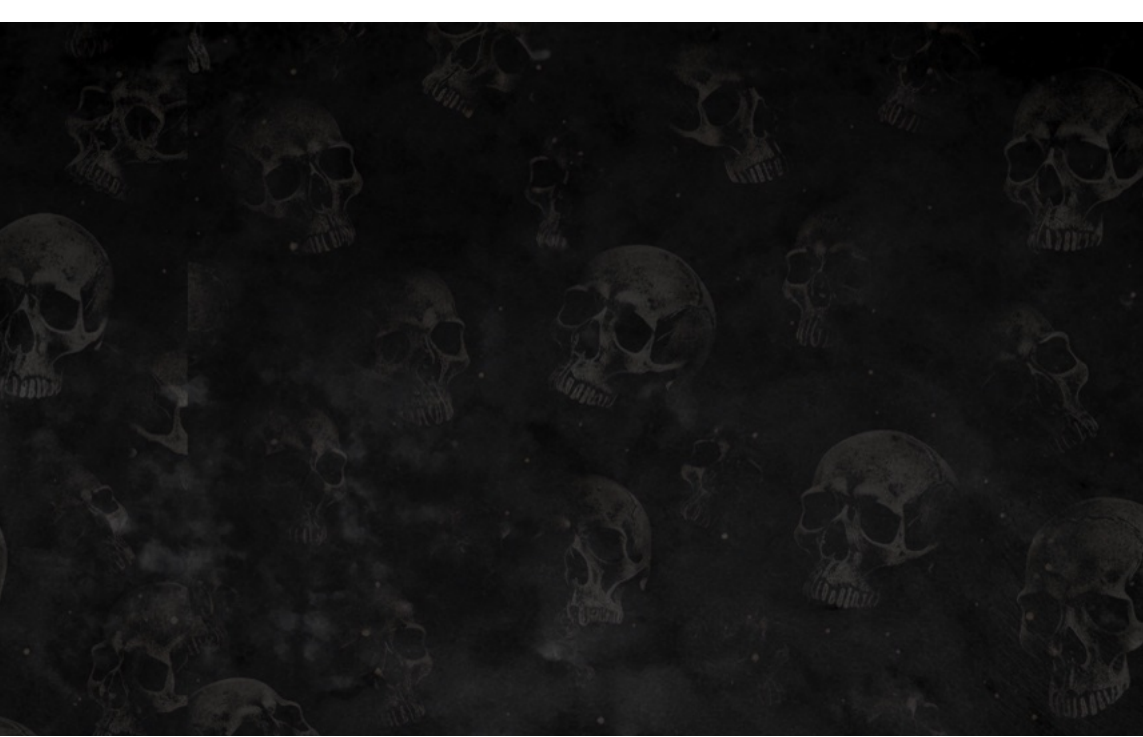
And yet, when your team wins... There is an unadulterated joy that brings a child-like giddiness from a hard-won victory. We lose economic discipline at the bar as we seek to share post-match analysis with everyone, anyone. All footballing news and opinion becomes absorbing. Those stories involving losses and controversies by rivals only add to that sweet feeling a win brings. The world seemingly becomes a more just place.

But we all know these feelings are short-lived. Like a cliched drug fix, the euphoria is temporary. We come back for more, knowing that the excessive pain of defeat is an inevitable companion for the loyal footballer supporter. And sometimes, we lose people along the way. Many have traded the season ticket for a quieter, less stressful life.

If we look at the net returns that football brings, most of us will experience as much success as we do defeat. The average payback will tend to be zero by the law of averages. In the days of billionaire owners, certain clubs will be experiencing a wave of elation beyond what typical fans get. But true Man City fans will tell you of the pit of despair they experienced going down to League 2. Even forgetting the pain of the Ashley years, Newcastle fans are currently on the back of 3 defeats. And we all know the joy Tottenham fans are currently experiencing is only a blip.

So, again, what is it that makes following a football club fun? For me, it's the dreaming. The feeling that the seemingly impossible may just be possible: adversity can be overcome, rivals vanquished, challenges risen to. That fortune really does favour the brave. Such dreaming is the no-man's land where those celebrating victory and those lamenting defeat can meet on neutral ground. Can these victories continue? Can we turn these defeats around? Because, as we know, there is a phoenix from the flames for every crash and burn.

What sets Real Bedford apart is that our dream is both unbelievable and possible. Can we get a Bedford football team into the Football League? On face value, it's an outrageous



idea. The target was six promotions, and we have already completed one. Further promotions will be through leagues full of undervalued talent. Non-league football in the UK has arguably one of the biggest pools of footballing ability in the world: last year, the premier league revealed 97% of the over 4,000 players who come through top-tier (i.e. premier league) academies will never play a minute of top-flight football. As a result, non-league games are usually full-blooded, high-intensity affairs. There is no quarter given.

Furthermore, in some of these leagues we're playing in, only the team that wins the division is guaranteed to get promoted. Second can be nowhere. Add to that the difficulties of being a part-time player with the time and travelling commitments and the risk of injury affecting your ability to work. Then there are the technical issues with running a club and ensuring meagre revenues and material costs stay sustainable. The maze of rules and regulations that clubs must adhere to with the risk of harsh penalties for any wrong turn. The army of people that are required to run and support a club... Etc. Etc. Etc.

And yet, this impossible dream is happening. Promotion last season with 99 points to go with a winning cup run. A run of impressive

and improving performances at the start of this new season. A singularly focused manager and support team who have galvanised the club. A playing squad with talent and heart and commitment. A growing fan base that's passionate and supportive. An army of volunteers (including the previous owner) willing to do the unappreciated jobs that keep this club ticking. An executive and grounds team spending every waking minute trying to move the club forward. A confident and sharp brand. A real sense that something magically is being brewed in this eastern corner of Bedford.

It took the might of Hollywood and two seasons to get Wrexham promoted one division. The result was an open-top bus parade that made it onto the BBC news. Imagine what we could achieve. We could put Bedford on the football map. We could reinvigorate this great town. We could make history. This could be one of the greatest football stories. We may be early in this adventure, but we deserve to dream.

**Neil McCormack,
Club Secretary**



ROTHWELL CORINTHIANS

A hat-trick from Joey Evans was the highlight as The Pirates beat Rothwell Corinthians 9-1 at McMullen Park to make it to the second-round qualifying of the Isuzu FA Vase.

After a somewhat even opening 10 minutes, Real Bedford created the game's first opportunity. Tom Wood lobbed the ball over the Rothwell defence and put Joey Evans through. The striker rounded the keeper, but the backtracking Ayrton Patel prevented him from getting a shot away. Instead, Evans laid the ball back to Ben Stevens, but his shot went over the bar.

Stevens made little mistake next time, as he found Bedford's opening goal. Lee Watkins drilled a ball across the face of the goal, which found Stevens on the penalty spot, who stroked it home first time for The Pirates.

Stevens soon found his second. Mo Ahmed dribbled his way past multiple defenders in the middle of the field before sliding a threaded pass to Stevens, who rounded the keeper and tapped it

into an empty net, his fifth goal of the season.

Bedford continued to push for another, but Rothwell found themselves back in the game against the run of play. Tyler McGregor met a well-taken shot from 25 yards by Louis Martin, but he could not get a strong enough hand to the ball, and it flew into the top corner, bringing the game level.

Motivated by the goal, Rothwell found a new lease of energy, started to get more possession of the ball, and pushed for an equaliser, but Bedford restored the two-goal cushion just before the break. More good work from the midfield meant Smith could put a ball over the top of the defence for Evans, who cut inside from the left flank and curled a shot into the bottom right corner to get his first goal of the afternoon.

Second Half

Real Bedford seemed in control of proceedings after the second-half whistle,



PIANS MATCH REPORT

bagging six goals over 45 minutes of play. The first came from an excellent bit of keeping from Tyler McGregor. The youngster came out to collect the ball from a Rothwell free-kick before making an inch-perfect pass up the field to Joey Evans, who collected the ball out wide before knocking it back to Mo Ahmed, who smashed it past Sam Rushby for Bedford's fourth.

McGregor was also on hand to create the next, finding Matt Clifford with a direct pass out wide. The left-back then flicked the ball on towards Evans up front. The striker headed the ball down for Ahmed to control out wide before he returned the favour, crossing the ball back infield this time for Evans to tap into the vacant net.

Evans got his hat-trick soon after, this time off some opportunistic defending. The striker poached a Cameron Halle back pass in front of the goal before striking it under the keeper to ensure he would take home the match ball.

The goals didn't stop there. Matt Clif-

ford's short throw-in gave Lee Watkins space and time to drive into the box, towards the by-line and test Sam Rushby, finding the net on a tight angle for his first goal in Real Bedford colours.

The introduction of Jordan Brown off the bench only made things worse for Rothwell as Bedford's all-time top goal scorer put two away in quick succession. From deep inside The Pirates' half, Matt Clifford found Brown behind the Rothwell defence for his first, beating Rushby in a one-on-one with a well-timed finish. His next and the final goal for Real was further good work from last season's top scorer. Dispossessing Jack Clipston, he rounded Rushby to tap home his second within a few minutes, bringing the final score to a healthy 9-1 win for Real Bedford.

RBFC: RBFC: McGregor, Gordon (Corbit 52'), Clifford, Wood ©, Swain, Smith, Stevens, Watkins, Evans (Brown 73'), Jones (Setchell 62'), Ahmed

A portrait of a young man with brown hair and a slight smile, wearing a dark shirt. The background is black with a repeating pattern of human skulls in various shades of grey and white. The title 'FROM THE GANTRY' is written in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters across the bottom of the image.

FROM THE GANTRY

Watching from the scaffolding so far this season has been a pleasure. As a commentator, you do your best to stay neutral during games. However, how the team has been playing has tempted me away from that neutrality, with some moments this season leaving me leaping up and down as I commentate.

As a worrisome teenager, my first game against MK Irish was a rather difficult and nerve-racking start. I felt like the ball when Lewis Burgess gets a throw-in - launched into action much quicker than you would expect. Within the game itself, I was impressed with just how rigid the backline was kept, as with players like Andre Olukanmi and George Shrieves running at you, it isn't easy to keep a clean sheet. But that's what they did, and Joey Evans stole a header late on in the game to bag the three points.

The FC Clacton replay match at home was my next game behind the mic. Being able to commentate on that Charlie Smith free-kick may be

the best thing this year - such a good dip and strike. Since then, I've also done the FA Cup MK Irish fixture, the 9-1 thumping of Rothwell Corinthians, and most recently, our 3-0 win away at Tring.

Due to stream restrictions, I've had to migrate my commentary to X Spaces for the FA Cup and Vase fixtures. Thus, my style had to adapt to the audio-only descriptive style that radio commentary necessitates. It was challenging, but I ended up easing into it and was a lot more confident.

So, so far, it has been interesting. My favourite part of the job has been talking and getting to know the players in the clubhouse - there's such a fun atmosphere. Looking forward to Sawbridgeworth, I wish the boys good luck and hope they can continue their win streak.

Benji Roberts,
Commentator

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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 *	3 - 4 (L)
26	ROTHWELL CORINTHIANS **	9 - 1 (W)
29	ARLESEY TOWN	0 - 3 (W)

SEPTEMBER '23

2	TRING ATHLETIC	0 - 4 (W)
9	SAWBRIDGEWORTH TOWN	H
12	AYLESBURY VALE DYNAMOS	A
16	ST PANTELEIMON	H
23	FLACKWELL HEATH **	H
30	LONDON LIONS	A

OCTOBER '23

7	COLNEY HEATH	H
10	BIGGLESWADE UNITED	A
14	STANSTED	H
24	LEIGHTON TOWN FIRST ***	H
28	CRAWLEY GREEN	A
31	STANSTED	A

NOVEMBER '23

4	ARLESEY TOWN	H
18	AYLESBURY VALE DYNAMOS	H
25	BALDOCK TOWN	A
28	POTTON UNITED	H

* FA CUP MATCH

** FA VASE MATCH

*** BEDS SENIOR COUNTY CUP

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	BIGGLESWADE 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
6	TRING ATHLETIC	H
20	SAWBRIDGEWORTH TOWN	A



THE AWAY TEAM

The club was founded in 1897 as Sawbridgeworth. In 1924, Sawbridgeworth won the East Herts League, winning the Herts Junior Cup three years later.

In 1936, Sawbridgeworth joined the Spartan League. The club entered the Herts County League Division One in the 1953–54 season, but left after only one season, joining the Bishop's Stortford, Stansted & District League and the Hertford & District League.

Sawbridgeworth joined the Essex Olympian League, be-

coming founder members, in 1966 and were crowned champions in 1971–72. They joined the Essex Senior League in 1976 and changed their name to Sawbridgeworth Town. They achieved their best FA Vase performance in 1980–81 when they reached a third round replay.

Sawbridgeworth finished runners-up in the league in 1992–93 and 1994–95. They achieved their best performance in the FA Cup, the first qualifying round, in 2016–17.

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
ARCHIE JONES
BEN STEVENS
EDDIE CORBIT
BEN FITZJOHN
JOSHUA SETCHELL
MO AHMED
CLASTON GORDON
KEVIN OWUSU
ANDY SINCLAIR
TOM HITCHCOCK
JOEY EVANS

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

SAWBRIDGEWORTH

WALE ADEDEJI
JOSHUA BARDOULEAU
ETHAN BARTON
HAARON BELAID
JAYDON CHARLES
LUKE CLARK
CORMAC CLARKE
JOE CLOAKE
MARCUS DOWDESWELL
JEREMY EBELEBE
GEORGE EDGEWORTH
GEORGIE FAIRHEAD
AUSTEN GARROD
TEDDY HALL
OSHUN LEWIS
JACOB LODGE
SHADRAC MALEMBE
KYRON MITCHELL
DANNY PALMER
THOMAS REEVES
GEORGE SPILLANE
DANIEL TAYLOR
MATT THOMA
LEWIS WICKER

MANAGER - BEN TAYLOR

REFEREE - DEAN CARNEY
ASSISTANT 1 - PAUL O'HARE
ASSISTANT 2 - LENNARD FRANCIS