# THE WHITE PAPER #35

KNOW YOUR ENEMY



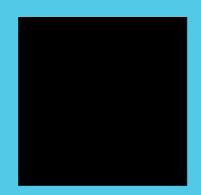
REAL BENFORN VA DRAWLEY GREEN SPARTAN PREMIER DIVISION EAT EERD DECEMBER 'EE - E.OO PM

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CLUB HONOURS: 22/23 SPARTAN DIVISION ONE WINNERS 22/23 BEDS COUNTY CUP WINNERS



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# FROM THE DRESSING ROOM

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

Away from McMullen Park, the squad have produced two gutsy wins on the road this December. These two results have put us in a good place as we head into today's festive fixture.

Reflecting on the clash with Harpenden three weeks ago, I was pleased with the character shown by the players as they pushed for goals all game. Despite a long gap between the first and second goals, we won comfortably. Harpenden proved challenging to break down on a pitch they know well. With the additional complexity of playing in foggy conditions throughout the 90 minutes, it was a good result to come away with three points and a clean sheet from that fixture.

It was also great to see Archie Jones return to play at Rothamsted Park as he made an appearance off the bench. Having suffered a tricky shoulder injury in late September, Archie has been working hard with our coaching staff to return to the pitch, so I was delighted to see him get some good minutes under his belt at Harpenden and perform well.

Last week's clash with FC Romania posed similar challenges, but the players showed great disposition to come from a goal behind and secure three points on the road. After the game against Dunstable Town was called off the week before, it can be difficult to regain the momentum from previous matches, but the squad all contributed well to what was an exciting game of football.

During our latest run of away games, the support from the sideline has not faltered. Thank you to all our travelling fans who make their voices heard on every field we play. Your dedication to the club is invaluable to the players and staff alike.

I have been delighted to host our Sinclair Sports Coaching Football Camps at McMullen Park this week. Young players from all over the county came to train on the ground, with coaching from players and experienced coaches. It is great to hold such camps at the club; all the players got involved, and it was great to see so many kids enjoying themselves with a ball at their feet. We will also hold another camp during the February half-term, where we look forward to welcoming all new and returning players.

I wish everyone at Real Bedford a very happy Christmas and New Year. With two games across the festive period at McMullen Park, we hope to be able to accompany the festivities with some entertaining football.

Thank you, and enjoy today's game.

Rob Sinclair, Manager

# HARPENDEN TOM MATCHREP, COS

### Real Bedford beat Harpenden in cold conditions

With heavy fog and a strong breeze, The Pirates secured the away win with 4 late goals at Rothamstead Park.

The game started brightly though as for the second time in a week, Rob Sinclair's men scored within the opening 5 minutes. Charlie Smith found Eddie Corbit in space on the right flank, the wing-back then cut the ball back into the area towards Tom Hitchcock. The striker was unable to make contact with the ball, instead, it found Ben Stevens on the edge of the area who smashed it home for an early lead.

Real Bedford kept up the domination with the lion's share of possession. The next chance fell to Charlie Smith off of a free-kick. The midfielder was only denied by the acrobatics of the Harpenden keeper.

More chances fell to The Pirates as Harpenden proved impatient. A late challenge on Eddie Corbit towards the end of the half sparked a dispute between the two sides. The result of which was a Luke Knight sin bin which saw Bedford's skipper spend the rest of the half on the sideline putting the visitors at a disadvantage.

#### **Second Half**

A replenished Real Bedford returned to the field for the second half in search of a crucial goal to extend their lead. 10 minutes



after the break, Mo Ahmed was put through one one-on-one with the keeper. A heavy touch from the winger invited Eman Olajide to come off his line and collide with Ahmed just inside the area. Despite some consideration, the referee waived away any penalty shouts to the surprise of The Pirates' travelling fans.

However, Bedford would soon find their second through Josh Setchell. The former Harpenden Town player put his old team to the sword with two identical goals within 3 minutes of each other. With space provided to him down the left flank, the winger dispatched two finesse goals past the keeper to put the visitors out of sight with 10 minutes to play. Real weren't done there though. A few minutes later Setchell was in again. This time his shot was saved by Olajide but only as far as Stevens who poked it home for his brace. A cameo appearance at right wing-back for Tom Wood also proved fruitful. After fellow replacement Archie Jones hit the woodwork with a one-on-one chance late on in the game, Wood followed up with a good effort that flew past Olajide to make it 5 for Bedford on the day.

RBFC: McGregor, Corbit (Wood 85'), Swain, Knight ©, Richardson, Smith, Setchell, Watkins, Hitchcock (Sinclair 89'), Stevens (Jones 81'), Ahmed

**Unused Subs: Burgess, J.Ducket** 

# FROM THE BOARDROOM

With Christmas just a few days away, it is an excellent opportunity to reflect on the season so far, while looking forward to what 2024 will bring for Real Bedford.

Last Saturday marked the season's halfway point, with the team pulling off an impressive comeback victory against playoff contenders FC Romania. The spirit shown by the lads to come back from a goal down and win 3-1 proved once again the team's mental strength. Some of you may not know this, but as "Real Bedford", our club has never lost an away game.

These kinds of pivotal matches are something you reflect on at the end of the season, those moments which define success or failure. I often think about last season's vital game away to Rugby Borough. Rugby play on 3G, and their record at home last season was very good; they were also chasing us down, and a win for them would have allowed them to close the gap at the top to a point, putting real pressure on us. With the game tied at 0-0 heading into the final five minutes, we scored twice to bring the points back to Mc-Mullen Park. Who knows what would have happened if Rugby had taken the win?

Our stats at this halfway point are nothing short of remarkable. In 19 league games, we've won 17 games, drawn one, and lost only once. This record has earned us 52 points out of a possible 57, alongside a fantastic goal difference of +56.

Such consistency is foundational to our goal of taking Real Bedford to league football. I must congratulate my manager, Rob Sinclair, his management team, and our players for their professionalism and relentless dedication to winning football matches. It has made us a tough team to take points off.

Our ladies' team parallels this success; they have maintained a 100% record in the league, just one game away from their season's midpoint. They've dominated all 10 of their league games, building a 9-point lead at the top with a goal difference of +46. They, too, have demonstrated their ability to secure points in difficult games. Away to Wroxham earlier in the season, they let a three-goal lead slip to 3-2 in the second



half but gathered themselves to ensure they won the game; if they hadn't, the gap now would be three points and not nine.

We recently changed the team's management, with Dean Perrett making way for coach Georgia Clarke, which has not disrupted their momentum. Georgia's first managerial role has already secured two victories, and I am confident in our continued success under her guidance.

At Real Bedford, our future is anchored in pursuing league titles, and we have put ourselves in an excellent position to secure this with both our men's and ladies' teams this season. Our relentless approach to success permeates every layer of our club, and as Chairman, I couldn't be prouder of what we have achieved as we approach the Christmas break. My promise to the town and our fans regarding our club ambitions is being realised through the hard work and dedication of everyone involved at Real Bedford. So, I also extend my deepest gratitude and best wishes to our entire club family for their commitment and efforts.

As I look ahead to 2024, I am excited about our future and look forward to growing this club. While our managers remain focused on their immediate games, my sights are firmly set on the broader needs of the club. In January, I will travel to the United States to meet with sponsors and investors, a trip that is crucial for sustaining and growing our club's ambitions in the coming years.

Lastly, I want to thank you, our fans. You have been the backbone of our journey, from the early days when a small crowd came out intrigued by what we are doing to our now regularly impressive attendances. Your support has supported our growth, and I urge you to continue this journey with us. Please bring your friends, spread the word, and let's work together to ensure Real Bedford reaches new heights.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a nice break with your friends and family.

#### Peter McCormack, Chairman

# YOU'VE GOT THE HAASH WE'VE GOT THE CASH

NOT THAT KIND OF HASH...

Iuxor.tech

# FROM THE CLUBHOUSE

I want to extend a warm welcome to all home and away fans at McMullen Park this afternoon. We are delighted to be able to host this festive clash around the holiday season.

With time to reflect on this first half of the season, it is great to see both senior teams at the top of their respective leagues and progressing well in the regional cup competitions. The hard work put in by staff, players, volunteers and fans to make every match so special has helped the club towards its successful start to the campaign. The league has recognised our continued success, and our men's team is delighted to accept the Team of the Month and Fair Play awards for November.

On the pitch, groundsman Jack Mudge has worked tirelessly during the winter months to ensure both teams can play on the McMullen Park turf. It has been great to see both teams playing such exciting football, no matter the conditions.

It is a packed festive schedule for the club with several big matches. We travel

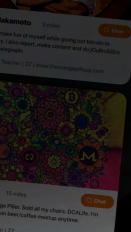
to neighbours Shefford and Campton Town on Wednesday, 27th December, before we host Cockfosters on the 30th, leading us into the New Year. But first, of course, we play Crawley Green this afternoon in the run-up to the big day.

We are once again hosting a Bitcoin meet-up before today's game. With drinks and mince pies provided alongside the chance to meet with fellow bitcoiners in the clubhouse, it has been great to see many new and travelling fans come to McMullen Park through their interests and passion for Bitcoin.

Our new merch has arrived and is on sale in the club shop; all those looking for a last-minute Christmas present should head into the clubhouse to look the Pirate way for the festive period.

I wish everyone at today's game a very Happy Christmas, and we want to see you back at McMullen Park next weekend to welcome 2024 in style.

#### Emma Firman, Chief Executive





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# Darvin Otero STACK FRIENDS WHO STACK SATS

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MKW 10 miles adrenaline, adventure & Bitcoin ck Florida | 35



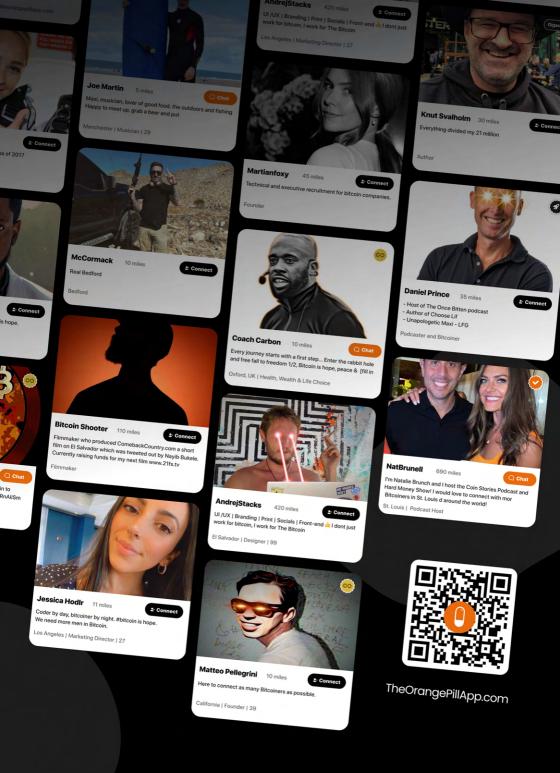
DMeadows 50 miles Coder by day, bitcoiner by night. #bitcoin

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

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# FC ROMANIA MATCH REPORT

Real Bedford reached the halfway point of the season with a well earned three points, coming from a goal behind to beat playoff contenders FC Romania.

Real Bedford headed to Cheshunt on Saturday to face FC Romania, in a match crucial for both teams' playoff aspirations.

The game burst into life within the first 10 minutes. FC Romania's Toby Coker capitalised on a ball over the top down the left-hand side, outpacing the Pirate's defence and coolly slotting the ball past the advancing goalkeeper Tyler McGregor, giving the hosts an early lead.

Despite going behind, Real Bedford pushed hard to level the scores. However, they were met with a solid defensive display from FC Romania, limiting their chances. Joey Evans did find a breakthrough in the 20th minute, clean through and only the goalie to beat; he put his effort wide from the angle.

Not content with a 1-0 lead, FC Romania continued to threaten, with Malik Nosike causing problems all afternoon. They nearly doubled their advantage when McGregor's rushed clearance left the goal open, but the subsequent shot went wide.

As half-time approached with FC Romania seemingly in control, Real Bedford struck. Mo Ahmed's cross from the left found Josh Setchell, who brought the ball down and



slotted it into the bottom right corner, levelling the game just before the break.

The second half saw The Pirates emerge with a change in formation. Rob Sinclair bolstered their midfield, substituting the injured Tom Hitchcock for Archie Jones, allowing Bedford more control over the midfield. Evans, once again, had a golden opportunity to put The Pirates ahead, but his header from Mo Ahmed's cross agonisingly missed the target.

The match, poised for a draw, swung in Bedford's favour when FC Romania were reduced to 10 men. Zenon Stylianides's comments to the linesman earned him a trip to the sin bin. Bedford seized the advantage, and with 10 minutes remaining, Setchell's cross was converted by Evans, putting The Pirates in front.

The final nail in the coffin for FC Romania came five minutes later. Ben Stevens' corner found Lewis Burgess at the back post, who made no mistake in finding the net, securing the win for Real Bedford.

RBFC: McGregor, Burgess, Wood ©, Richardson, Smith, Watkins, Setchell, Evans, Hitchcock (Jones 45'), Stevens, Ahmed

Unused Subs: Gordon, Bozward, J.Ducket, Walsh



#### Real Bedford put four past Crawley Green to close the gap at the top of the league.

Goals from Evans and Swain, a brace from Ben Stevens and a Crawley Green consolation effort left the score at 4-1 on a cold Saturday afternoon.

The Pirates got off to a fast start and found their first chance inside 5 minutes. A short corner routine between Ahmed and Stevens saw the latter whip in an inviting cross towards the head of Lewis Burgess, who flicked it across the face of the goal in agonising fashion.

Bedford continued to knock on the Crawley door but struggled to find clear opportunities to break the deadlock as the Crawley defence held firm. Pirates fans would have to wait until just before the halftime break before the first goal of the game. Crawley's goalkeeper parried a shot from range from Ben Stevens, but only as far as Joey Evans. The striker reset the play, finding Lewis Burgess in a deeper role, before finding Stevens inside the area. Stevens evaded defenders well before firing a shot towards goal, taking a deflection to fool Tierney Parker in between the sticks and cross the whitewash for the first goal of the game.

#### Second Half

Real Bedford continued their intensity from the end of the first half into the start of the second and found more opportunities as Crawley came out less defensive. 10 minutes in, a Charlie Smith corner was punched away by Parker to Setchell, who fizzed it back towards goal on the half volley from 20 yards out. Parker again parried the effort, and Ollie Swain picked up the scraps from out wide, delivering a ball to the back post towards his centre-back partner Luke Knight. However, the captain's header was off-target, and Crawley got away without conceding.

Real Bedford did get their second a few minutes later. Charlie Smith regained possession in the midfield before playing a direct pass towards Evans, who raced towards goal. With Stevens, Corbit and



Ahmed all in pursuit. Evans took his time before laying it off to Stevens, who in turn found Corbit, then Ahmed before playing it back to Evans a few yards out, who made no mistake, bagging his 20th goal of the season inside 20 games.

Bedford got their third after the 70th-minute mark. Another short corner routine between Mo Ahmed and Ben Stevens allowed Stevens to whip a cross in. The ball floated past everyone in the area towards Luke Knight, who in turn passed it back to Burgess, who produced a delightful delivery from the opposite flank towards Swain, who nodded it in at the back post for his first goal in Real Bedford colours.

Moments later, Crawley Green picked up a consolation. A loose pass at the back from McGregor found Fullwood, who in turn played in Harry Peterson, who slotted it home to bring the game back to a twogoal deficit.

The 3-goal cushion was soon restored. Charlie Smith, Ben Stevens and Tom Hitchcock all linking up in the midfield left space in behind for Stevens to run into. Hitchcock tapped the ball towards Stevens, who steadied himself before smashing it past the keeper into the bottom left corner to complete his brace.

Crawley Green thought they had their second with a few minutes to go; a longrange Paris Smith header was palmed away acrobatically by McGregor, who collected it on the second time asking.

With the clock in the red, Real Bedford nearly put away a final chance. Claston Gordon, running down the right flank, played in Andy Sinclair, who Crawley Green defenders smothered before the referee blew his whistle for full-time.

RBFC: McGregor, Corbit, Burgess, Knight ©, Swain, Smith, Setchell (Hitchcock 79'), Watkins (A.Sinclair 86'), Evans, Stevens, Ahmed (Gordon 88')

Unused Subs: J.Ducket, Walsh

# Coin

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Crawley Green was formed in November 1989 after arsonists caused the virtual destruction of the present building. Members of Stopsley Harriers, The Wyvern and Ramridge Rangers Sunday Football Clubs amalgamated to form the present club and were successful in securing a 99 year lease from the Council. The New Club house was formally opened on 19th June, 1992 by then Luton Town manager, David Pleat. The badge incorporates all the elements of the three founding clubs but also local history. The club badge was adopted in 1996 after many years of discussion. Maroon was the colour of the largest single club Ramridge Rangers and it was adopted as the club colour. It is incorporated in the Club badge as the bar across the middle. Stopsley Harriers were well known for their red



and blue quarters, whilst Wyvern Members were predominantly blue since their foundation. Both these colours are reflected in the badge.

Crawley Green FC Saturday side was formed in 1993 after another local team, Somerset Tavern, came under the Crawley Green umbrella. The club colour of maroon was adopted by the team. In 2018 Luton Town FC and Crawley Green FC further enhanced their club partnership with the announcement that Crawley Green FC will play their home games at The Brache training ground from season 2018-2019. Crawley Green, who are the only Luton based team to play at step 5 or above of the National League System, have been trying since 2008 to get permission to build a suitable stadium.

### FIXTURE LIST

#### AUGUST '23

	MK IRISH	2 1	0	(W)
5	FC CLACTON *	2	2	(D)
12	COCKFOSTERS		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)

#### **DECEMBER** '23

2	HARPENDEN TOWN	0		5	(W)
16	FC ROMANIA	1		3	(W)
23	CRAWLEY GREEN		н		
27	SHEFFORD TOWN & CAMPTON		А		
30	COCKFOSTERS		Н		

#### **SEPTEMBER '23**

2	TRING ATHLETIC	0	-	4	(W)	6	LEVERSTOCK GREEN
9	SAWBRIDGEWORTH TOWN	7		0	(W)	9	COCKFOSTERS ****
12	AYLESBURY VALE DYNAMOS	1	2	4	(W)	13	ST PANTELEIMON
16	ST PANTELEIMON			4	(L)	16	DUNSTABLE TOWN ****
23	FLACKWELL HEATH **	2		0	(W)	20	DUNSTABLE TOWN
30	LONDON LIONS	0		3	(W)	27	BALDOCK TOWN
						30	STANSTED

#### OCTOBER '23

7	COLNEY HEATH	8		1	(W)
10	BIGGLESWADE UNITED	1		5	(W)
14	STANSTED	2		0	(W)
21	MK IRISH **	0	H	5	(W)
24	LEIGHTON TOWN FIRST ***	3		1	(L)
28	CRAWLEY GREEN	1		4	(W)
31	STANSTED	A		А	

#### **NOVEMBER '23**

ARLESEY TOWN	5		0	(W)
POTTON UNITED	0		3	(W)
<b>BIGGLESWADE UNITED</b> **				
WELLINGBOROUGH W'WORTH ***	* 5		1	(W)
AYLESBURY VALE DYNAMOS	5		2	(W)
BALDOCK TOWN	2		0	(W)
POTTON UNITED	3		1	(W)
	BIGGLESWADE UNITED ** WELLINGBOROUGH W'WORTH ***	POTTON UNITED 0   BIGGLESWADE UNITED ** 2   (Per   WELLINGBOROUGH W'WORTH ****5   AYLESBURY VALE DYNAMOS   5   BALDOCK TOWN	POTTON UNITED0-BIGGLESWADE UNITED **2-(PENSWELLINGBOROUGH W'WORTH ***** 5-AYLESBURY VALE DYNAMOS5BALDOCK TOWN2	POTTON UNITED0-3BIGGLESWADE UNITED **2-2(PENS 6-7)WELLINGBOROUGH W'WORTH ***** 5-1AYLESBURY VALE DYNAMOS5-2BALDOCK TOWN2-0

\* FA CUP MATCH \*\* FA VASE MATCH \*\*\* BEDS SENIOR COUNTY CUP \*\*\*\* GLADWISH CHALLENGE CUP \*\*\*\*\* PREMIER DIVISION CUP

#### **JANUARY '24**

6	LEVERSTOCK GREEN	Н
9	COCKFOSTERS ****	н
13	ST PANTELEIMON	A
16	DUNSTABLE TOWN *****	A
20	DUNSTABLE TOWN	Н
27	BALDOCK TOWN	A
30	STANSTED	A

#### **FEBRUARY '24**

3	LEVERSTOCK GREEN	A
10	HARPENDEN TOWN	UUN H
13	DUNSTAB:E TOWN	A
17	BIGGLESWADE UNITED	Н
24	FC ROMANIA	™ZS S(∂H

#### MARCH '24

2	LONDON LIONS	н
9	MK IRISH	А
23	COLNEY HEATH	AA
30	SHEFFORD TOWN & CAMPTON	Н

AP	RIL '24	
13	TRING ATHLETIC	н
20	SAWBRIDGEWORTH TOWN	А

### LADIES FIXTURE LIST

#### AUGUST '23

13	STEVENAGE	4	1	(W)
24	AFC DUNSTABLE	0	7	(W)

#### **SEPTEMBER '23**

3	BARKING	5	0	(W
10	WROXHAM FC	2	4	(W
17	BOWERS & PITSEA	0	1	(W
24	ST ALBANS CITY	4	0	(W

#### **DECEMBER** '23

5	BARKING	3	9	(W)
)	AFC DUNSTABLE **	0	2	(W)

#### **JANUARY '24**

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00	CTOBER '23		FEBRUARY '24							
4	HACKNEY WOMENS *	2	- 9	(W)	4	NEEDHAM MARKET	А			
8	ROYSTON TOWN	4	- 1	(W)	11	STEVENAGE FC	A			
15	KINGS LYNN	13	<u>م</u>	(W)	18	WOOTTON BC RESERVES ***	н			
22	STEVENAGE FC *	4	- 0	(W)	25	LUTON TOWN	А			
24	NEEDHAM MARKET									

#### **NOVEMBER** '23

12	BILLERICAY TOWN *	0	5	(L)
26	WOOTTON BLUE CROSS **	6	1	(W)

#### MARCH '24

3	AFC DUNSTABLE WOMEN	H
10	ROYSTON TOWN	А
17	WROXHAM FC	Н
24	BOWERS & PITSEA	H

#### APRIL '24 7 HARINGEY BOROUGH 28 LUTON TOWN

н

\* FA CUP MATCH \*\* LEAGUE CUP \*\*\* COUNTY CUP

## MATEMDAY EQUAD

V



#### PIRATES

TYLER MCGREGOR ALFIE BOZWARD **LEWIS BURGESS** JOE STEELE TOM WOOD MATT CLIFFORD JAMES DUCKET **OLLIE SWAIN BEN WALSH** DREW RICHARDSON LUKE KNIGHT © LEE WATKINS CHARLIE SMITH **ARCHIE JONES** BEN STEVENS EDDIE CORBIT **BEN FITZJOHN** JOSH SETCHELL **MO AHMED CLASTON GORDON TOM HITCHCOCK** JOEY EVANS



#### **CRAWLEY GREEN**

HARRY PETERSON NICOLAE TRIF JOE PARMLEY **KAI MCARTHUR** PAOLO DERITIS GARRY JONES **TEJON BROWN** DANIEL BLACKMAN **ZION SELASSIE-YOSEPH JOE HANKINS** © TAYLOR KEELEY DARNELL JOE LES LUKE **KIAN WILKES** ADO SANNI JOE BRINDED AIDEN DAWSON MARCEL BURUIANA FRANKLIN OJUMOBI JACOB YOUNGER ANDRIAN LUNCASU SERHAN DROGHER JAMES DOHERTY GEOVANNI JOHNSON EDIS GREENGRASS SIDNEY GUEYE **CLIFF KENTYN EDISON CONNOLLY** TERRY OFFEH **RASHAUN RATTIGAN** TIERNAN PARKER PARYS SMITH JACOB YOUNGER COLUMBUS IYAYI

MANAGER - ROB SINCLAIR ASST. MANAGER - MARK DUCKET COACH - PETER THORNES GOALKEEPER COACH - IAN BROWN PHYSIO - LOTTIE BURTON KITMAN - GERRY MCCORMACK MANAGER - PAUL BLACKMAN ASST MANAGER - MATT HARDING COACH - GARRY JONES COACH - SEAN GRIFFITH PHYSIO - FRANKIE

REFEREE - SOPHIE DENNINGTON ASSISTANT - ASHLEY NORRIS ASSISTANT - BEN SOLL