

THE WHITE PAPER #44

KNOW YOUR ENEMY



REAL BEDFORD VS FC ROMANIA

SPARTAN PREMIER DIVISION

TUE 9TH APRIL '24 - 7.45 PM



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COACH: PETE THORNES
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PHYSIO: LOTTIE BURTON
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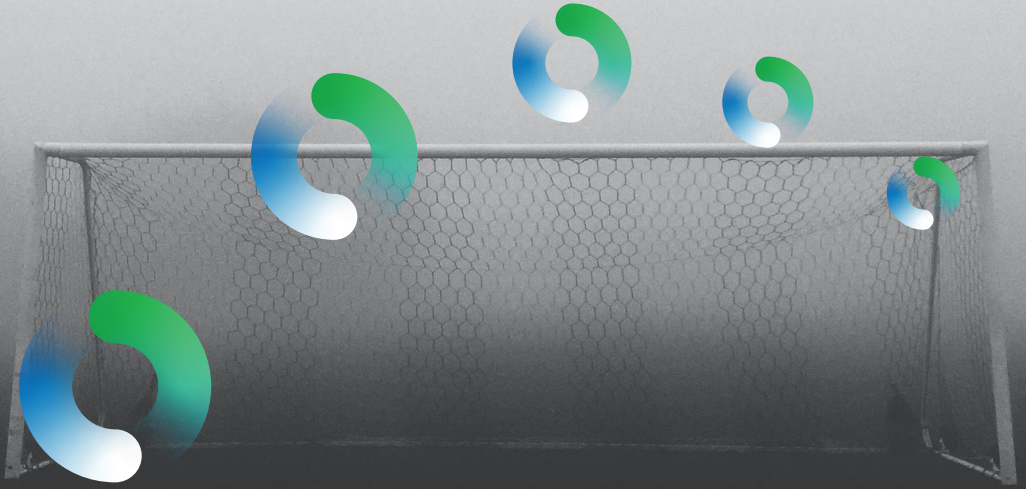
CHAIR: JAY ALLISON

CLUB HONOURS:

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

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FROM THE DUGOUT

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

Having pushed us hard in the reverse fixture, we expect a tough match this evening against a side keen to cement their place in the play-offs come the end of the season.

Reflecting on last weekend's game, it was great to progress into the League Cup Final with a confident 3-0 win at McMullen Park. The whole squad played their part, producing a dominant performance that puts us in good stead for the final at the end of this month. It was great to welcome back Mo Ahmed to the pitch after a month away with an ankle injury. It was also positive to see a crowd of over 220 for a cup game and the home fans who made themselves heard across the 90 minutes.

Off the field, it is an exciting week for the club. Many will be aware of the conference taking place in Bedford on Friday, which concludes with all those at the conference heading to McMullen Park on Saturday to see the team take on Tring Athletic in our penultimate home fixture for this campaign. Those who were here this time last year will know of the surreal impact those travelling from far and wide to Bedford have on a match day, and we

anticipate that this year will be even bigger. I encourage everyone at the game tonight to revisit us this weekend, which will hopefully be a unique and memorable weekend for the club.

Last week, we were delighted to host Peter Koo at Real Bedford. Peter is chairman of Life Football Club, a recently promoted Premier League side in Cambodia. It was fascinating to sit down with Peter and discuss the ins and outs of his football club in East Asia and all the fantastic work he has done for the town of Sihanoukville, creating their first-ever professional side. I understand that Peter will now visit Bolton Wanderers, Sheffield United and Blackburn Rovers during the remainder of his trip to the UK. I wish him and his club all the best for the remainder of his trip and Life FC's upcoming season in the first division.

Thanks again to all who continue to turn up week in and week out to support the club. With the end of the season a matter of games away, your commitment is invaluable.

Thank you to everyone in attendance this afternoon, and enjoy the game.

Rob Sinclair,
Manager



FROM THE BOARDROOM

Welcome to McMullen Park for this evening's league fixture against FC Romania. I want to start by acknowledging the tremendous effort of our ladies' team. Despite suffering their first league defeat of the season against a very good Haringey side on Sunday, their performance throughout the season has been nothing short of remarkable. Heading into the game, they had a perfect record in the league, winning all 15 matches—an incredible achievement, notable as before kick-off, they were the only team across ladies' football from tier 5 upwards and men's football from tier 10 upwards to have done so.

Real Bedford has experienced several impressive winning streaks across both men's and ladies, and the end of such a run is always tough; the team was understandably disappointed, but as I told them after the game, the better you become and the more games you win, the more painful a defeat is when it comes.

As Chairman of Real Bedford, the pain I saw across their faces filled me with pride; it demonstrated how much they care about the team, each other and the club. Last year, the team finished at the bottom of the league and was only saved from relegation due to another team folding. Over the summer, the team was rebuilt, hoping to challenge for the league, and they have done more than that; they have dominated it.

In ladies' football, the pursuit of promotion is particularly hard. With only the division's top team promoted and no playoff opportunities, the difference between finishing second and tenth is negligible in meaning. The FA should revisit this structure. Introducing playoffs could inject additional excitement and keep the competition interesting for more teams, especially towards the season's end.

Our ladies have six more games to secure the wins necessary to guarantee promotion. Despite the pressure,



they will regroup and start another run to secure what they deserve.

Turning to our men's side, I want to congratulate them on their convincing win last weekend in the league cup semi-final. We are just one win away from another trophy and in a similar position to last season, competing for a league and cup double. Cup competitions have a different dynamic than the league, and I'm excited by the prospect of adding another cup to our achievements. Whether we face Aylesbury Vale Dynamos or Cockfosters, it will be a tough game, but hopefully, we will bring the cup home.

This week also marks an exciting time for Bedford as I am hosting one of the UK's largest Bitcoin conferences, with leading experts visiting from across the globe. This conference, significantly larger than last year's, helps place Bedford on the map as a hub of economic activity. I look forward to showing our guests the Real

Bedford project during their visit and hopefully setting a new attendance record at the game against Tring on Saturday.

As for the match, FC Romania is a tough competitor, currently performing well in the league, sitting third and having all but secured their position in the playoffs. It should be a great game of football, but I'm confident in our team's ability to secure a win and continue pushing towards our back-to-back promotions goal.

Thank you all for your continued support. Your presence at McMullen Park always gives the players a lift, and you can join us for the remaining two home games against Tring and London Lions.

Up The Pirates!

**Peter McCormack,
Chairman**



TRING ATHLETIC MATCH REPORT

3 unanswered goals at McMullen Park booked Real Bedford's place in the League Cup Final, continuing their momentum at home into the business end of the campaign.

Goals from Tom Hitchcock, Ben Stevens and Luke Knight secured the win in front of a large home following.

The first goal came early on in the half. Ben Stevens with some space on the right flank, cut the ball back to Tom Hitchcock who stroked it home for the lead. Bagging his third goal over the last three games.

Archie Jones and Joey Evans both had chances throughout the 45, but were unable to double Bedford's advantage heading into the break.

Second Half

The second goal came on the hour mark, some wonderful footwork from Ben Stevens allowed the midfielder to weave into the area and get a shot away, smashing it past Daniel Gould at his near post to extend the lead.

With 15 minutes left to go, Real Bedford then put the game beyond



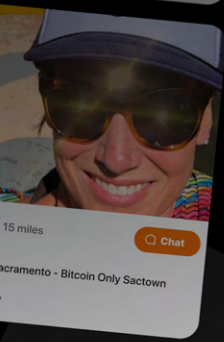
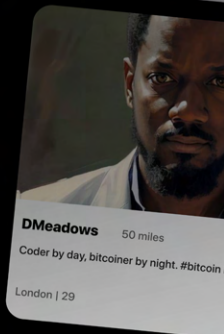
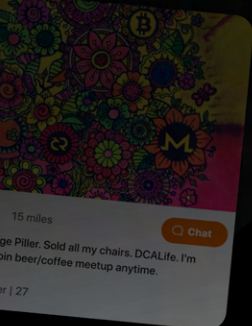
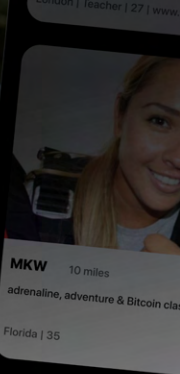
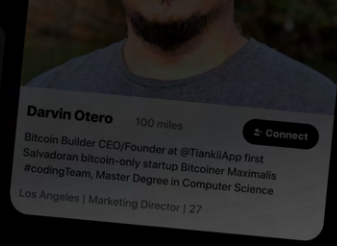
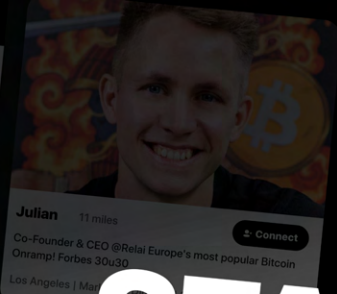
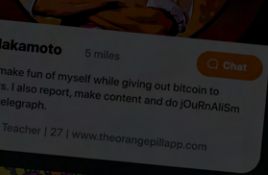
doubt courtesy of a fine goal from club captain Luke Knight. After a half clearance from Tring following a Real Bedford corner. Knight sprung into action from the edge of the area, hitting the ball cleanly and finding the back of the net thanks in part to a heavy deflection from a Tring defender. Nevertheless, the audacious effort was met with a roar from the McMullen Park crowd as the goal all but confirmed The Pirates' place in the league cup final set to take place at the end of this month.

Bedford now meet Tring again on

Saturday in what could be a monumental match for the club, with the culmination of Cheatcode weekend combining with a crucial match which may determine the league title.

RBFC: McGregor, Duckett, Wood, Richardson, Gordon (Ahmed 58'), Agemoh-Davies (Setchell 67'), Knight ©, Jones (Corbit 83'), Stevens, Hitchcock, Evans

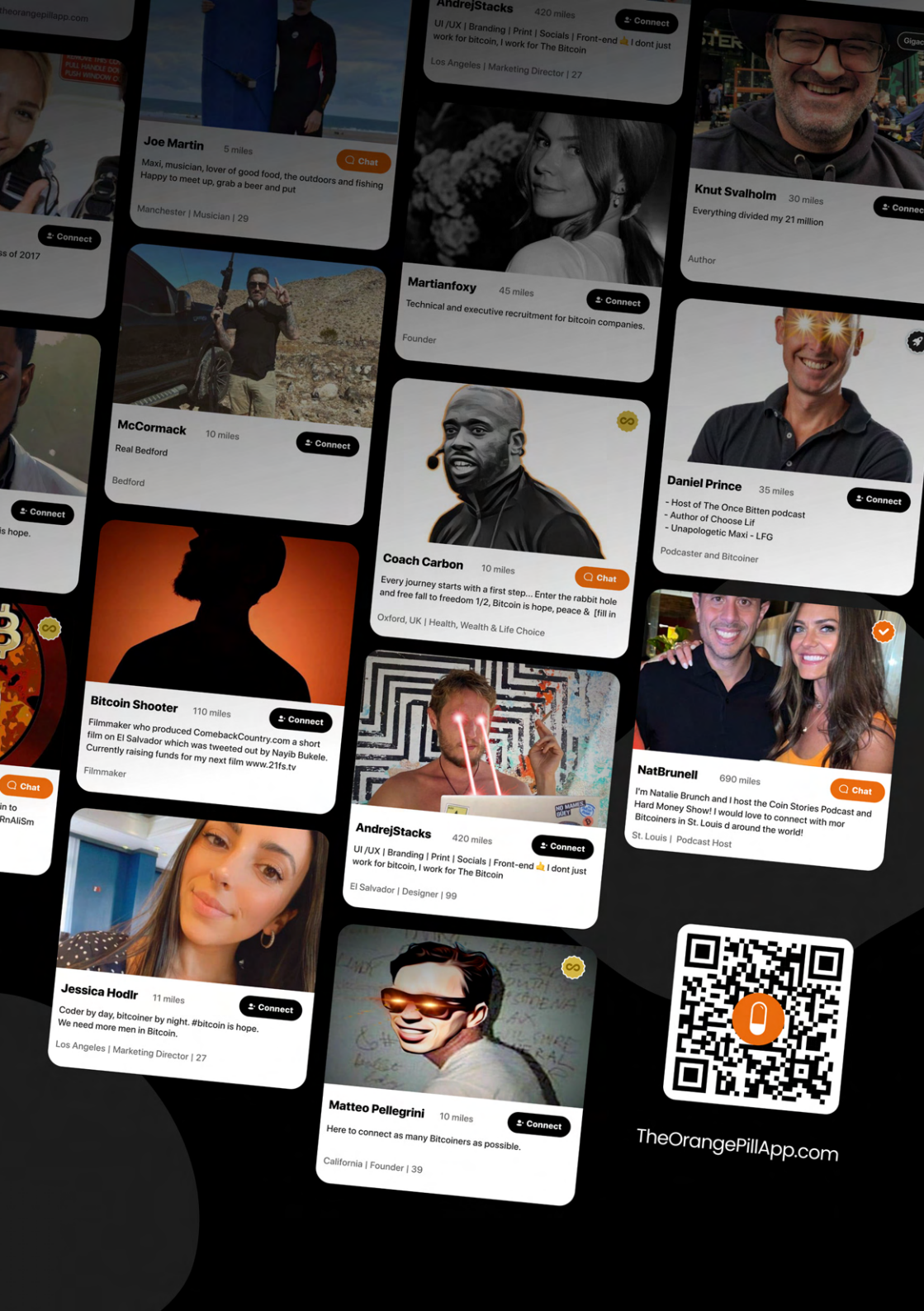
Unused Subs: Burgess, Watkins



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Real Bedford

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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 d around the world!

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Jessica Hodlr 11 miles Connect

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California | Founder | 39





SHEFFORD TOWN MATCH REPORT

A brace on either side of half-time from Joey Evans and Josh Setchell was enough to put the Lambs to the slaughter, maintaining Bedford's lead at the top of the table.

Bedford were in an attacking mood from the first whistle, with shots raining down on Josh Mollison early on in the game. Two efforts from Ben Stevens and Archie Jones were blocked in quick succession by the Shefford defence five minutes into the match.

Jones and Stevens worked well together all game, and Jones soon broke free again in the area but was brought down by Charlie Milton, giving the referee little choice but to point to the spot. Joey Evans confidently put away his

third penalty of this league campaign, getting The Pirates off the mark.

Minutes later, Evans scored again, this time with a more opportunistic effort. Ben Stevens struck the ball well from range, forcing a parried save from Josh Mollison but only as far as the Bedford striker, who tapped it home for his second in as many minutes.

Approaching the half-hour mark, Drew Richardson sprung into action from centre-back, driving through midfield and playing a through ball to Archie Jones. However, Mollison was on hand to block Jones' attempted effort from inside Shefford's box.

Shefford then forced two impeccable



saves out of Tyler McGregor in quick fashion, one from an effort at the near post by Scott Metcalfe and the other an acrobatic tip over the bar, denying Curt Ellaine a goal to half the deficit just before the break.

Second Half

In a similar fashion to the first half, Bedford stamped their authority on the match with an early goal in the second half. Josh Setchell evaded the defence with an audacious dribble from inside his own half before smashing the ball past Mollison.


Twenty minutes later, Setchell bagged his brace from a similar shooting position. Receiving the ball just inside the

box on the right flank, he struck the ball across his body and into an identical place as his previous goal, his fifth goal against Shefford this season.

The Pirates rode the game out, keeping them in the hunt for the League title heading into the final few games of the season.

RBFC: McGregor, Corbit, Longden (Agemoh-Davies 73'), Wood ©, Richardson, Smith (Knight 81'), Setchell, Watkins (Hitchcock 78'), Evans, Stevens (Gordon 86'), Jones

Unused Sub: Duckett



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HARINGEY WOMEN MATCH REPORT

Real Bedford Ladies concede their first loss in the league against Haringey

A shock first half at McMullen Park led to second place Haringey breaking The Pirates perfect league form in front of a large home crowd.

The wind certainly played its part in this match, with a running theme of long-range efforts coming from the visitors with the win at their back in the first 45. The first fell to Ronnell Humes who in the 11th minute, dispossessed Amy Reed and fired an audacious shot towards goal from 35 yards out, nestling it in the top corner to open the scoring in fine fashion.

Minutes later The Pirates looked to hit back off a corner. An in-swinging effort

from Lisa Milliken was well connected with by Erin Price, but her header was wide of the goal. The home side were then awarded a golden opportunity to level up the game, Chloe Martin received the ball on the left flank, floating it over to Cesca Partridge. Partridge stopped the ball dead in front of Fensome who got to the ball before Liamara Hensel-Burg in the Haringey net, but couldn't poke it home.

Haringey then doubled their lead. This time it was Chloe Ions off a corner, who swung the ball into the area, but thanks to the conditions ended up finding the back of the net herself. Bedford soon had the ball in the back of the net at the other end of the pitch. Tash Fensome found Partridge with a floated ball who smashed it into the roof of the net. How-



ever, the goal was ruled out as Gemma Croucher was found to be in an offside position and the eye-line of the goalkeeper despite not touching the ball.

Haringey then produced another stunning effort. This time it was a free-kick from Rimini Lowe from close to halfway that found its way into the back of the net 5 minutes before the break. The visitors got their fourth and final goal moments later. Another corner caused problems for The Pirates and was headed home by Victoria Campbell.

Second Half

With the wind at their backs, Real Bedford were dominant throughout the second half but had set themselves an almighty task after conceding 4 goals in

the opening 45 minutes.

Chances fell to Lisa Milliken, Cesca Partridge and Chloe Martin. All of which were saved by Hensel-Burg. Bedford did manage to get on the score sheet just past the hour mark, however. Erin Price connecting with a Milliken corner, this time on target, was enough to get Real a crucial first goal.

But the visitors stayed resilient, fighting off chances for Real Bedford and defending well. Marking Real Bedford Ladies' first loss of 2024 and indeed their first dropped points this campaign.

Georgia Clarke's team will look to bounce back next weekend as they host Bowers & Pitsea on Sunday 14th April.



FC Romania was founded in August 2006 by a group of Romanian workers in England who wanted to play football in their spare time. Ion Vintila entered the team into the Sunday London Weekend League playing their games on Hackney Marshes. FC Romania won their Division in the first season and finished runner-up in the next.

In 2008 FC Romania switched to Saturday football and joined the Essex Business House Football League, playing at Low Hall Recreational ground in Walthamstow, North East London. In 2010 the club moved to the Middlesex County Football League Division One, playing at Leyton Sports Centre and finished second in their first sea-

son gaining promotion. The following season in the Premier League saw FC Romania finish second but they were denied promotion to senior football due to the ground regulations.

2012 saw FC Romania begin their ground sharing relationship with Ryman League outfit Cheshunt FC in Hertfordshire. They played another season in the Middlesex County Football League and again finished in second position. Also in this season FC Romania won the Middlesex County Senior Open Cup, beating Bratham 3-1 in the final at Uxbridge FC. The club applied for promotion to the Essex Senior League and played their first season in the ESL in 2013-14 finishing 5th. The following



year FC Romania slipped one place to 6th.

In the 2012 -13 season the club entered the FA Vase for the first time but only reached the second round. 2014-15 the club finally entered the FA Cup and reached the 2nd round qualifying round just losing out to Sutton United 3-2, after beating Haverhill Rovers, Heybridge Swifts and AFC Sudbury on the way. The club has gained a lot of attention in its short life from various media outlets in England, abroad and of course in Romania.

The club and the manager have appeared in sports newspapers and magazines including , BBC Sport, Gazzetta

dello Sport, L'equipe, The Times, The Sun , FourFourTwo magazine to name a few and on television in the UK on BBC on Japanese TV with NHK and on Romanian TV stations Pro TV and Digi Sport. The club has developed into a focal point for the Romanian community but has also attracted many local and English fans as well.

The club has ambitions to progress through the leagues and reach higher standards of football while developing the team further. The aim is to eventually have our own home and become a respected and established part of English football encompassing all the good things about England and Romania and being successful in everything we do.

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	SAWBRIDGEMOUTH TOWN	7 - 0 (W)
12	AYLESBURY VALE DYNAMOS	1 - 4 (W)
16	ST PANTELEIMON	1 - 4 (L)
23	FLACKWELL HEATH **	2 - 0 (W)
30	LONDON LIONS	0 - 3 (W)

OCTOBER '23

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

NOVEMBER '23

4	ARLESEY TOWN	5 - 0 (W)
7	POTTON UNITED	0 - 3 (W)
11	BIGGLESWADE UNITED **	2 - 2 (L) (PENS 6-7)
14	WELLINGBOROUGH W'WORTH ****	5 - 1 (W)
18	AYLESBURY VALE DYNAMOS	5 - 2 (W)
25	BALDOCK TOWN	2 - 0 (W)
28	POTTON UNITED	3 - 1 (W)

* FA CUP MATCH

** FA VASE MATCH

*** BEDS SENIOR COUNTY CUP

**** GLADWISH CHALLENGE CUP

***** PREMIER DIVISION CUP

DECEMBER '23

2	HARPENDEN TOWN	0 - 5 (W)
16	FC ROMANIA	1 - 3 (W)
23	CRAWLEY GREEN	6 - 0 (W)
27	SHEFFORD TOWN & CAMPTON	0 - 7 (W)
30	COCKFOSTERS	3 - 2 (W)

JANUARY '24

9	COCKFOSTERS ****	2 - 1 (W)
13	ST PANTELEIMON	0 - 4 (W)
27	BALDOCK TOWN	2 - 2 (D)
30	STANSTED	0 - 1 (W)

FEBRUARY '24

3	LEVERSTOCK GREEN	2 - 1 (L)
10	DUNSTABLE TOWN *****	1 - 6 (W)
17	BIGGLESWADE UNITED	3 - 3 (D)
20	CODICOTE ****	4 - 3 (L)
27	HARPENDEN TOWN	2 - 1 (W)

MARCH '24

5	DUNSTABLE TOWN	2 - 2 (D)
9	MK IRISH	0 - 0 (D)
16	LEVERSTOCK GREEN	2 - 0 (W)
19	SHEFFORD & CAMPTON *****	1 - 1 (W) (PENS 6-7)
23	DUNSTABLE TOWN	5 - 1 (W)
26	COLNEY HEATH	1 - 2 (W)
30	SHEFFORD & CAMPTON	4 - 0 (W)

APRIL '24

6	TRING ATHLETIC *****	3 - 0 (W)
9	FC ROMANIA	H
13	TRING ATHLETIC	H
16	LONDON LIONS	H
20	SAWBRIDGEMOUTH TOWN	A

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)

OCTOBER '23

1	HACKNEY WOMENS *	2 - 9 (W)
8	ROYSTON TOWN	4 - 1 (W)
15	KINGS LYNN	13 - 0 (W)
22	STEVENAGE FC *	4 - 0 (W)
29	NEEDHAM MARKET	3 - 1 (W)

NOVEMBER '23

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

DECEMBER '23

3	BARKING	3 - 9 (W)
10	AFC DUNSTABLE **	0 - 2 (W)

JANUARY '24

14	HARINGEY BOROUGH	2 - 3 (W)
21	KINGS LYNN TOWN	0 - 9 (W)
28	WATFORD DEVELOPMENT **	11 - 2 (W)

FEBRUARY '24

4	NEEDHAM MARKET	1 - 3 (W)
25	WOOTTON BC RESERVES ***	17 - 1 (W)

MARCH '24

10	LUTON TOWN **	1 - 2 (W)
17	ST ALBANS CITY	1 - 2 (W)
31	WROXHAM FC	4 - 1 (W)

APRIL '24

7	HARINGEY BOROUGH	1 - 4 (L)
14	BOWERS & PITSEA	A
25	ROYSTON TOWN	A
28	LUTON TOWN	H

MAY '24

1	LUTON TOWN	A
5	STEVENAGE FC	A
12	AFC DUNSTABLE WOMEN	H
19	WROXHAM FC **	H

* FA CUP MATCH

** LEAGUE CUP

*** COUNTY CUP

MATCHDAY SQUAD



V



PIRATES

TYLER MCGREGOR (GK)

ALFIE BOZWARD (GK)

LEWIS BURGESS

JOE STEELE

TOM WOOD

MATT CLIFFORD

JAMES DUCKET

BRETT LONGDEN

OLLIE SWAIN

BEN WALSH

DREW RICHARDSON

LUKE KNIGHT ©

LEE WATKINS

CHARLIE SMITH

ARCHIE JONES

BEN STEVENS

EDDIE CORBIT

BEN FITZJOHN

ENIOLA AGEMOH-DAVIES

ALIE BANGURA

JOSH SETCHELL

MO AHMED

CLASTON GORDON

TOM HITCHCOCK

JOEY EVANS

FC ROMANIA

EIGI FEJZO

JOHAN BECKA

WILLIAMS DANQUAH

JANDIR DA CRUZ

DANIEL ORTIZ

GERMAN PETROV

PHIL LOWEN

MALIK NOSIKE

ZENON STYLIANIDES

DENIS GABRIEL BENE

TOBI COKER

RIDWAN MOHAMED HUSSEIN

STEFAN BALEV

ANTHONY ATOLIA

HELDER MOCRA

JESSE FRIEND

TOMAS MENDES

IONT ILLIES

ZUBAYR BOADI

MANAGER - ROB SINCLAIR

ASST. MANAGER - MARK DUCKET

COACH - PETER THORNES

GOALKEEPER COACH - IAN BROWN

PHYSIO - LOTTIE BURTON

KITMAN - GERRY MCCORMACK

MANAGER: ION VINTILIA

ASST. MANAGER: GEORGE GEORGIO

COACH: HENRI JACKSON

PHYSIO: IMRAN RENHAM

REFEREE - DARREN KNOX

ASSISTANT - KEVIN DUNNINGS

ASSISTANT - ANDREW MARSH