

# THE WHITE PAPER

THE OFFICIAL MATCH DAY PROGRAMME OF **REAL BEDFORD FC**



**VS AMERSHAM TOWN**

TUES 21ST FEB '23  
KICK OFF: 7:45 PM  
ISSUE #15 // £2

# #15



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# FROM THE DRESSING ROOM

I'd like to give a warm welcome to the Amersham Town directors, management, players and supporters.

After a disappointing result last Tuesday night, losing 2-0 against Wellingborough Whitworth, it was good to bounce back on Saturday, winning 4-1 against Leighton Reserves in the County Cup semi-final.

It was a tough defeat to take last Tuesday as we dominated the game, but unfortunately, we couldn't find the end product to get us the goals to win the game. I also have to credit Wellingborough Whitworth as they defended for their lives and showed great character with their game plan.

Saturday was a good reaction from

the boys beating a young Leighton reserves team. We now face Elstow in the final, which should be a good game and another tough test.

Everyone is excited about the two games we have this week. It's an important week as we play Amersham tonight and Rugby on Saturday. Both games will be a challenge, as always in this league, and we will have to be at the top of our game to get the outcomes we want.

Your support will be crucial in both games, so please get behind the boys.

**Rob Sinclair,**  
**Manager**



# FROM THE BOARDROOM

I watched the Wellingborough defeat in a bar with some friends in New York as I have been away with work. Like every defeat, it was painful to take. We have recorded four losses this season, three in the league and one in the Division Cup. I've mentioned before that a defeat with Real Bedford feels nothing like a Liverpool defeat because the Bedford project means so much more to me now.

I have to give credit to the players, Rob and his team. If you had offered me the position we are in at the start of the season, I would have snapped your hand off. Still, I find these defeats so painful because every loss is an attack against what we are trying to achieve with Real Bedford.

If you have been a regular reader of this programme, you know exactly what I want to do with Bedford; I never shut up about it. I want league football in the town, and I believe we are building a club which can achieve it. Therefore, I take every defeat personally, questioning what I could have done more to support Rob and the players.

It is six promotions to the football league, and each one will be progressively harder as we come up against stronger teams with higher budgets. Because of this, I have to work on building a club ready for each higher division while not taking any promotion for granted. If we win the league, everything will be in place, ready for Rob to have what he requires to challenge for



promotion again next season. Still, I take nothing for granted and will give him my full support to ensure we have the best chance of winning the league this year.

I am working hard on the business plan to prepare for higher divisions. When I travel for work, I meet as many people as possible and tell them the story of Real Bedford, what we stand for and want to do. I am always met with so much enthusiasm for the project. I get so many questions, from how the league structure works to how they can support us.

Our next two games are crucial, and I am very confident we will win both games because I think we have the best manager in the league and the best set of players.

I know how focused they are on getting this over the line and will give both teams a tough game, but we recognise both of them are capable of causing us problems.

I also want to congratulate Rob and the lads for getting to the final of the County Cup; this is our first cup final, and we will face Elstow. I can't wait for the game, and I hope we take a big crowd and bring the trophy home, hopefully, the first of two trophies this season.

Up The Pirates!

**Peter McCormack,  
Chairman**

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A league is hard to win. It takes experience, mental strength, focus, relentless hard work and sometimes a little luck. We have set such high standards this season and spent most of it at the top of the league; this itself is a challenge, as there can be no complacency in the camp. We must approach every game like a cup final because other teams are chasing us down.

Last week we recorded our second league defeat of 2023 and our third of the season to Wellingborough. They came with a game plan, and a couple of mistakes at the back cost us, but like with every other defeat this season, the team has bounced back because we are so determined to bring the title home.

It takes a team to win the league, from the strikers banging the goals to the defence keeping shots out to the engines in midfield controlling the game's play. Sometimes one of us might have an off day, but we win

and lose as a team.

Following the defeat to Wellingborough, we all reflected on the result and were determined to put it right against Leighton Town Reserves. We recorded a 4 - 1 win, putting us into the County Cup Final.

We welcome Amersham Town in the league tonight ahead of an away game against Rugby Borough. The lads are focused because we know what it takes to win the league, and our goal is six points from these two games.

Thanks for coming down to support us all season. We are going to give it everything we have to get over the line and be crowned Champions come April.

**Luke Knight,  
Captain**



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# MISTAKES COST REAL BEDFORD DEFEAT TO WELLINGBOROUGH

**It was heartbreak for The Pirates on Valentine's Day as they lost at home to Wellingborough Whitworth under the Tuesday Night Lights. Two costly mistakes gave all three points to the visitors.**

Real Bedford fell to a second defeat at home in 2023 in a frustrating 2-0 loss to Wellingborough Whitworth on Valentine's Day. The Pirates failed to increase the lead at the top of the table against a struggling Wellingborough side who managed to find goals either side of the half, in between some gutsy defending from 'the Flourmen'.

It was clear that Bedford would dominate possession throughout the game; however, Real were caught well on the counter inside the first 15 minutes. Kobi Bivens collected the ball around the halfway line before laying it off to the dangerous Connor Bailey, who produced an optimistic effort from range, catching Tyler McGregor off his line and slipping through the

hands of the keeper to find the back of the net. The first of two out-of-character mistakes for the young keeper this evening, setting Real Bedford on the back foot and chasing the game.

The league leaders did have a few half chances to level the game. The head of Tom Hitchcock utilised around the penalty area on several occasions, but no ball seemed to find its way towards the target. Kevin Owusu's threaded ball to Hitchcock allowed the striker to get a shot away on the turn, only for it to glance wide of the goal and prove little trouble for young Wellingborough keeper Shackleton. Hitchcock was involved soon after in arguably Bedford's best chance of the half. The ball was spread out wide through Hitchcock to Dan Walker, deputising in a relatively unfamiliar wing-back role, who in turn fired the ball into the area towards an awaiting Jordan Brown, who couldn't get the right touch on the ball to steer it towards goal deflecting it wide of the post. It was proving to be





Real Bedford 0 - 2 Wellingborough Whitworth  
14th February 2023  
McMullen Park

# REAL BEDFORD WITH 2 - 0 THROUGH WHITWORTH

an agonising first half of football for the McMullen Park faithful.

Real had two calls for penalties dismissed late in the first half, with Jordan Brown and Ben McGrath both tripped inside the area. The referee waved them away as the Pirates headed into the break with a comeback firmly on their agenda.

## SECOND HALF

Despite having complete control of possession and playing all the football within Wellingborough's half, Real Bedford failed to make more than one clear-cut chance to even up affairs within the second half. Wellingborough's defensive game plan frustrated Bedford, defending deep and limiting the Pirate's chances of making headway into dangerous areas. The only notable chance fell to Luke Knight from a free kick. The captain swung the ball goalwards from the left, forcing an impeccable save from Shackleton, who managed to tip the ball onto the bar before

Wellingborough defenders diffused the situation and cleared their lines.

And if things couldn't get any worse for Bedford, as the clock dipped into the red, Tom Wood played an unopposed back-pass towards an awaiting McGregor, but the ball travelled underneath the foot of the keeper, doubling Wellingborough's advantage and giving them all three points in a far from ideal showing from the home side.

Wellingborough saw out the game and kept a clean sheet, only the second team to do it this season.

**RBFC:** McGregor, Owusu (Gordon 67'), Walker, Knight ©, Wood, J. Duckett, McGrath, S. Sinclair, Hitchcock, Corbit, Brown.

**Unused Subs:** R. Duckett, A. Sinclair.



# REAL BEDFORD BEAT LEIGHTON TOWN RESERVES 4-1 TO REACH CUP FINAL

**Real Bedford reached their first cup final after winning convincingly against Leighton Town Reserves. Dan Walker put in a star performance, making two goals and scoring one, with a Tom Hitchcock brace and a customary Jordan Brown goal completing the scoreline.**

Real Bedford arrived at Bell Close knowing a win would put them into their first cup final and put the home side under pressure from the whistle and were ahead within two minutes with a wonderfully worked goal. The prolific Jordan Brown gave Tom Hitchcock the opening chance, which he buried confidently into the bottom right-hand corner.

It was complete domination from The Pirates in the opening 25 minutes, with Leighton struggling to create chances, and on 24 minutes, Bedford

doubled their lead. Dan Walker broke free and provided a perfect cross for Jordan Brown to slot home.

The Pirates continued to attack the Leighton Box with several balls breaking the backline but without adding to the scoreline. It took until the 36th minute for Leighton to create their first attempt of note, but Bedford maintained their lead.

Bedford continued to pursue a third goal with some great play between Hitchcock, Dan Walker and Andy Sinclair in the middle of the park, opening up chances for Jordan Brown, but he couldn't find the net for his second goal.

## SECOND HALF

Leighton came out of the tunnel, determined to get back into the game





Leighton Town Reserves 1 - 4 Real Bedford  
18th February 2023  
Bell Close

# LEIGHTON TOWN H COUNTY CUP FINAL

and were rewarded immediately with a goal. A very bobbly and awkward pass to Archie Culley was followed by some heavy Leighton pressure, which led to the ball being dispossessed, allowing Leighton to break free and get a goal back.

Another scrappy Leighton attempt came only a few minutes after their first goal, and they were keen to make the game level. However, with only 5 minutes gone in the second half, Bedford restored their two-goal lead. A great ball over the top from James Duckett found Dan Walker, who put another perfect cross into the box for Hitchcock to get his second of the game.

The game began to swing end to end as Leighton looked to get back into the game while The Pirates wanted to put it to bed, but as the half drew on,

Bedford increased their dominance.

Rob Sinclair made three changes just after the hour mark, and not long after, Bedford had a three-goal lead. A poorly taken free-kick landed straight at the feet of Dan Walker, who smashed the ball into the back of the net.

Bedford continued to create chances while Leighton pushed for the odd opportunity on the break, but there were no more goals. The game ended a 4-1, with Real advancing to the final of the County Cup.

**RBFC:** McGregor, Gordon, Clifford, Culley (McGrath, 62'), Wood (C), J. Duckett (Uttridge, 63'), Walker (R. Duckett, 71'), A. Sinclair, Hitchcock, Corbit, Brown (Owusu, 62').

**Unused Subs:** S. Sinclair.



# THE AWAY TEAM

Amersham Town FC was formed in 1890. An inaugural meeting took place at the Crown public house, now a hotel, on 10 October 1890. The Chairman was a local headmaster who was very friendly with W. G. Grace and was, in fact, recommended by that great cricketer.

Among the original rules were no bad language on the pitch, that no player should wear any nails, an annual subscription of 1/6d ( or 7.5p ) and an agreement that the club colours would be black and white.

The club originally played at

Barn Meadow, down the road from the current ground. Amersham Town moved to Spratleys Meadow in 1920, thanks to the generosity of a local entrepreneur - a Mr Brazil - who founded the famous sausage and pie company bearing his name.

Amersham joined the Hellenic League in 1952. The Clubhouse, a former school room, was erected in 1968 and extended to its current size in 1983. In 1998 the Club secured a ninety nine year lease on Spratleys Meadow and installed new floodlights and a new stand. In 2000, new pitches were provid-





ed across School Lane for the Youth Section.

In 2006/07 the club enjoyed a major refurbishment. The original changing rooms, which were commandeered in the war as an emergency mortuary in the event of an air raid on Amersham, were demolished and modern facilities constructed. The pitch, which had a slope of 11ft 4 inches from touchline to touchline, was levelled and now provides an excellent playing surface and the clubhouse recently has been comprehensively remodelled. Amersham Town was granted Charter Standard

Club status in 2013.

The first team, which plays in Division One of the Spartan South Midlands League, is managed by Stuart Atkins and the club has developed close links with Kings Church FC, a well organised local club which runs more than fifteen junior teams.

A hard copy or an on-line booklet recording the club's history, prepared for its 125th anniversary in 2015, can be obtained by emailing Mike Gahagan on [michaelgahagan89@gmail.com](mailto:michaelgahagan89@gmail.com).

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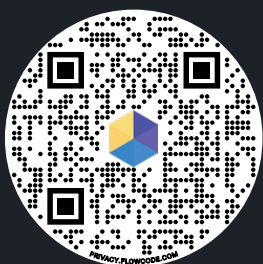
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# SPARTAN SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE

## DIV 1 - FIXTURES 2022/23

AUGUST				
SAT 6	3:00PM	H	Rushden & Higham United	(W) 3-0
SAT 13	3:00PM	A	Buckingham Athletic	(W) 1-7
SAT 20	3:00PM	A	Burton Park Wanderers	(W) 1-2
TUE 23	7:45PM	H	Letchworth Garden City Eagles	(W) 3-0
SEPTEMBER				
SAT 3	3:00PM	A	London Tigers	(W) 1-2
TUE 6	7:45PM	H	Raunds Town (Gladwish Challenge Trophy)	(W) 9-1
SAT 17	3:00PM	A	Holmer Green	(W) 1-4
TUE 20	7:45PM	H	Moulton FC	(W) 5-0
SAT 24	3:00PM	A	Amersham Town	(W) 1-3
TUE 27	7:30PM	A	London Tigers (Division One Cup)	(L) 1-2
OCTOBER				
SAT 1	3:00PM	H	Lutterworth Athletic	(W) 1-0
TUE 4	7:45PM	A	Raunds Town	(W) 0-2
SAT 8	3:00PM	H	Winslow United	(W) 4-1
SAT 15	3:00PM	H	Rugby Borough	(L) 2-1
TUE 18	7:45PM	A	Letchworth Garden City Eagles	(W) 0-2
SAT 22	3:00PM	A	Moulton FC	(W) 1-2
SAT 29	3:00PM	A	Aylesbury Vale Dynamos (Gladwish Challenge Trophy)	(W) 0-1
NOVEMBER				
SAT 5	3:00PM	H	Raunds Town	(W) 9-0
SAT 19	3:00PM	H	Eaton Socon	(W) 2-1
SAT 26	3:00PM	H	London Tigers	(W) 4-0
DECEMBER				
SAT 3	2:00PM	A	Flitwick Town First (Bedfordshire County Cup)	(W) 0-3
TUE 6	7:45PM	A	Thame Reserves	(W) 2-6
SAT 10	3:00PM	A	Wellingborough Whitworth	(W) 2-5
TUE 27	7:45PM	A	Amptill Town	(W) 1-3
JANUARY				
MON 2	3:00PM	H	Langford	(L) 1-3
TUE 10	7:45PM	H	Northampton ON Chenecks	(W) 3-1
SAT 21	2:00PM	A	AFC Caddington S&S First (Bedfordshire County Cup)	(W) 0-13
TUE 31	7:45PM	A	Eaton Socon	(W) 0-3
FEBRUARY				
SAT 11	3:00PM	H	Northampton Sileby Rangers	(W) 2-1
TUE 14	7:45PM	H	Wellingborough Whitworth	(L) 0-2
SAT 18	2:30PM	A	Leighton Town Reserves (Bedfordshire County Cup)	(W) 1-4
TUE 21	7:45PM	H	Amersham Town	
SAT 25	3:00PM	A	Rugby Borough	
TUE 28	3:00PM	H	Buckingham Athletic	
MARCH				
SAT 4	3:00PM	H	Holmer Green	
SAT 11	3:00PM	H	Burton Park Wanderers	
SAT 18	3:00PM	A	Rushden & Higham United	
SAT 25	3:00PM	H	Lutterworth Athletic	
APRIL				
SAT 1	3:00PM	A	Northampton ON Chenecks	
SAT 8	3:00PM	A	Langford	
MON 10	3:00PM	H	Amptill Town	
SAT 15	3:00PM	H	Thame United Reserves	
SAT 22	3:00PM	A	Winslow United	



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# MATCHDAY SQUAD



V



## REAL BEDFORD

TYLER **MCGREGOR**  
ROB **DUCKET**  
JAMES **DUCKET**  
ANDY **SINCLAIR**  
JACK **UTTRIDGE**  
TOM **WOOD**  
BEN **WALSH**  
LUKE **KNIGHT (C)**  
BEN **MCGRATH**  
JORDAN **BROWN**  
CURTIS **HARTLEY**  
TYRELLE **MCLEOD BENTLEY**  
JAMIE **SYLVESTER**  
ARCHIE **CULLEY**  
STUART **SINCLAIR**  
EDDIE **CORBIT**  
MATT **CLIFFORD**  
FLYNN **BAKER-BOND**  
DAN **WALKER**  
TOM **HITCHCOCK**  
KEVIN **OWUSU**  
CLASTON **GORDON**

MANAGER: ROB **SINCLAIR**

ASSISTANT MANAGER: MARK **DUCKET**

GOALKEEPING COACH: IAN **BROWN**

HEAD SPORTS THERAPIST: LOTTIE **BURTON**

KITMAN: GERRY **MCCORMACK**

## AMERSHAM TOWN

RYAN **LEHANE**  
ALDIS **ALIU**  
CARLOS **LEWIS**  
ANDREW **BRENNAN**  
JAMIE **SPEER**  
JONNIE **O'SULLIVAN**  
NICK **KERLEY**  
JACK **SMITH**  
SEAN **CLEMENT-PETER**  
LOUIS **BIRCHAM**  
HARLEY **SELLS**  
AYODEJI **IKUSEMORI**  
DERYN **FOWLER**  
TOM **GIBSON**  
HARRY **BENNETT**  
CHARLIE **LINE**  
RICCARDO **CLARKE-ROWE**  
LUKE **PEERLESS**  
OSCAR **EZENEKU**

MANAGER: STUART **ATKINS**

COACH: GARY **BURKETT**

COACH: ANTONIO **CACCIAPUOTI**