

THE WHITE PAPER

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



VS BURTON PARK WANDERERS

SAT 11TH MAR '23
KICK OFF: 3:00 PM
ISSUE #18 // £2





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CEO: TOM PATTINSON

COO: EMMA FIRMAN

BACKROOM STAFF:

MANAGER: ROB SINCLAIR

ASSISTANT MANAGER: MARK DUCKETT

PHYSIO: LOTTIE BURTON

GOALKEEPING COACH: IAN BROWN

KITMAN: GERRY MCCORMACK

GROUNDSKEEPER: JACK MUDGE

CLUB HISTORIAN: GEOFF SEAGRAVE

BEDFORD LADIES & GIRLS:

CHAIR: JILL UPTON

MANAGER: STEVE WORRELL

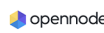
BEDFORD PARK RANGERS:

CHAIR: JAY ALLISON



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FROM THE DRESSING ROOM

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

On Tuesday night, we picked up another 3 points against Holmer Green. We started the game slowly, and we were sloppy in possession which was disappointing, but once we scored the first goal, we dominated the game and could've won by much more.

Today will be another challenge against a good Burton Park side. As always we are looking to get another 3 points. After today we have five away games before we return to play against Ampthill. It would be great if we could beat our record attendance for this game, so please bring someone along with you.

This week I went out in the community and visited a local primary school called Livingstone. I did a Q&A with a selected group of pupils which was fantastic. I want to thank Pete Thornes, the headteacher and the children for making me feel so welcome. I really want to help within the community, especially in schools. Hopefully, this helps get more children into football and supporting Real Bedford.

Thank you for all the support, and as always, we hope to send you home happy with another 3 points.

Rob Sinclair,
Manager



FROM THE BOARDROOM

The release of Matt Hancock's text messages this week in the Telegraph highlights that we should always question authority and limit our trust in centralised bodies. You may be wondering why I am addressing this in a programme for a football team; well, if you haven't read my previous columns, I occasionally go outside of football.

The history of many football teams is rooted deep within a local community. Fifteen fellow munitions workers formed Arsenal in October 1886, members of St. Mary's Church of England Young Men's Association formed Southampton in 1885, and Manchester United was formed in 1878 by the Carriage and Wagon department of the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway under the name Newton Heath LYR Football Club. Even our club, Real Bedford, was established in 1957 by the works team of the printing firm Diemer & Reynolds.

Historically teams and players have fought to represent their communities. In 1997, after scoring in Liverpool's 3-0 Cup Winners' Cup win over Brann Bergen, Robbie Fowler lifted his shirt to display a t-shirt with the message "Support The 500 Sacked Dockers". UEFA fined him. Derry-born James McLean refused

to wear a customary poppy because of the role of the British Army during The Troubles in Northern Ireland. He was the subject of online abuse and death threats. Sadly, these types of retrospective actions from centralised bodies and social media communities have eroded civil debate.

While sporting bodies oppose political messages, sports teams and players can raise important cultural and political issues in the consciousness of supporters. And while sporting bodies have been responsible for important campaigns such as The FA's Kick It Out anti-racism movement, individual clubs and players have the opportunity to represent smaller and niche communities, things which are important to them.

I've said before that I believe teams should stand for something, but few clubs appear to have an identity beyond sporting excellence and the generic campaigns handed down to them. While Forest Green Rovers stand for environmental issues and St. Pauli in Germany dedicates its message to social issues and political activism, they are rare examples.

I want Real Bedford to stand for something,



to give meaning in a confusing world. We live in strange times; we have war in Europe, economic issues, a rising wealth gap and immense mistrust in the media. Only by talking about these issues and talking about them openly can we debate what is best for society.

For too long, successive governments have loaded debt onto this nation with poor economic policies and overspending. Why should they face different rules to us? If we take out a loan and cannot pay it back, we risk losing our homes. If we don't deliver in the workplace, we risk losing our jobs, but our elected leaders can't manage a budget and make poor decisions without facing the consequences.

I honestly don't care if I ruffle a few feathers with this football club; I actually want to, because I have never cared too much for elected authority. What I care about is an earned authority. As a journalist, I have been exposed to many scandals, cronyism and poor performance in public office, yet the "corporate" media is too quick to brand anyone who challenges this as right-wing or a conspiracy theorist, failing their journalistic duties to investigate these issues.

The Matt Hancock messages exposed our elected leaders' incompetence during the crisis. How many people have lost their businesses while the rich got richer? How many people were pushed into poverty? How many of their mate's companies got valuable contracts? We live in a time where many people now face the tough decision of whether to keep their house warm or feed their family. As a developed nation, how are we in this position? We are here because of the failure of those we elect.

We are not here to be ruled by the political class; they are our elected leaders and are they are here to represent our best interests. They should be challenged and exposed for every false step they make that damages the hard-working people of this country. So if Real Bedford is successful and you see me ranting at the political class, it is because this is what Real Bedford represents, a challenge to authority.

**Peter McCormack,
Chairman**

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CAPTAIN'S CORNER

Following the 6-0 win over Buckingham Athletic, we scored another big win beating Holmer Green 7-1. These results have put the team in a great position to win the league, as we are ten points clear of the chasing pack with nine games to go.

I must commend the lads for their performances in these games; for relentlessly pursuing more goals. While we have this ten-point lead, our goal difference could always come into play at the end of the season, and in our last two games, the lads have scored 13 goals while only letting in one, a +12 move in our goal difference.

As we enter the final stretch, I wanted to tell you about the infrastructure which has supported the team this season because so much happens behind the scenes that people aren't aware of.

I'll start with the chairman, Peter McCormack. When the squad arrived pre-season, he was clear to us all of his intentions. He is a proud Bedfordian and believes the town should have a team in the football league. He told us that this season needs to be the first of the six promotions required to hit this goal and promised to give us the resources we require.

Emma Firman and Tom Pattinson support the chairman, and all three have made sure that

all the little details are taken care of so the lads can focus on football.

I also want to thank all the volunteers that help on a match day. From Karen behind the bar to Wendy preparing the lad's food and all the others who work the gate, behind the bar and on the merch stand. They ensure home matches run smoothly and fans coming to McMullen Park have a great experience.

I want to thank you, the fans. Last year the team averaged gates of around 50, but this season it is more than 150, and we have had two games of nearly 300. Come rain or shine, you have been coming out to support the lads, and I promise you, it makes a big difference to us.

Lastly, I need to thank the gaffer and his team, Ducks, Lottie, Brownny, Stu and Gezza. Their meticulous planning for training and match days ensures the lads have everything they need to go and get three points.

Winning titles is hard, and if we are successful at the end of the season, it will be down to everyone involved with Real Bedford.

Up The Pirates!

Luke Knight,
Captain

YOU'VE GOT THE

HASH

WE'VE GOT THE

CASH

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PLAYER PROFILE

Full name: Curtis Hartley

Nickname: I've never had one

Date of birth: 3rd April 1997

Place of birth: Milton Keynes

Previous clubs: PUFC, St Neots, Corby, Daventry, Stamford, Eyesbury and Market Harbough.

Favourite team: Arsenal.

Favourite player: Jude Bellingham.

Most memorable footballing moment: Stamford vs Hartlepool in the first round of the FA Cup. We also beat Wrexham in the build up.

Career highlight: Winning the Evo-Stick Southern Premier League with Corby.

Occupation: Personal Trainer / Sports Massage Therapist.

Hobby: Golf.





REAL RECORD ANOTHER SEVEN PAST HOLMER GREEN

Real Bedford clocked up another comprehensive victory at McMullen Park with a healthy 7-1 win over Holmer Green. The Pirates continued their recent run of good form, with several players getting on the scoresheet in front of the Bedford faithful.

Despite the dominant scoreline, Real Bedford were slow off the mark against Holmer Green. Struggling to keep possession in the midfield, The Pirates failed to register a clear chance in the first 20 minutes of play before Jordan Brown was presented with an opportunity to add to his tally. Eddie Corbit flicked the ball into the path of Tom Hitchcock, who laid it off to the debutant Ben Fitzjohn and he crossed back into the middle to Brown, but the striker stumbled in front of an empty net, and the ball ran under his feet, leaving fans with their heads in their hands.

A Luke Knight free-kick brought the next chance, this time for Matt Clifford, who picked up the ball after a strong parry

off the captain's set-piece effort. However, this led to the first of many goal-line clearances throughout the day.

It wasn't long before the goal came. Real caught Holmer Green on the counter, and a threaded ball by Eddie Corbit found Jordan Brown through the middle, who this time made no mistake in front of goal with a composed finish past the keeper to net his 25th of the season.

A second goal for Bedford came quickly - a solid shot from Eddie Corbit tested the keeper forcing a corner for the home team. A perfect Luke Knight delivery found Andy Sinclair in the area, who headed the ball home for Real Bedford's second goal in as many minutes.

Real Bedford managed to bag their third just before the halftime break. Luke Knight was once again the provider feeding a ball through to Eddie Corbit, who went on a mazy run before releasing a shot from outside the box. The ball fizzed through the legs of the Holmer Green

Real Bedford 7 - 1 Holmer Green
4th March 2023
McMullen Park



R BIG WIN, HITTING GREEN

keeper, allowing for the teenager to find the back of the net for the second time in a week.

SECOND HALF

Similarly to the first half, Real Bedford got off to a slow start in the second period, conceding a goal just minutes from the whistle. A Holmer Green free-kick caused problems at the back, and striker Kobi Ambrose capitalised with a half-volley deflected shot which found the back of the net.

It didn't take the Pirates too long to re-establish their three-goal cushion. Ten minutes from the Holmer goal, Tom Hitchcock came deep to retrieve the ball and play in Fitzjohn out wide. His short ball to Brown set up a shooting position for the striker, whose chance was parried by the keeper but only as far as fresh-faced replacement Culley who showed composure to smash the ball into an empty net for his first goal for the club.

Some more tactical changes brought

fresh legs for Bedford, which were utilised well into the game's latter stages. A counter-attacking chance allowed Hitchcock to play a floated ball over defenders towards substitute Dan Walker who, after an initial heavy touch, managed to steal the ball from the goalkeeper's control and fire it into an empty net, deflecting into the top right-off a valiant Holmer Green defender.

Real rounded off nicely with two relatively identical goals from corners giving Tom Woods a rare brace for a defender. Luke Knight's corners caused trouble for the away side all afternoon, and twice he found Tom Wood in the area within the last 5 minutes of the game.

There were smiles all around McMullen Park as Real Bedford coasted to another comfortable home win, keeping the title challengers at arm's length with a 10 point buffer maintained between 1st and 2nd.



Burton Park Wanderers Football Club was founded in 1961, as Kettering Park Wanderers. Entry to league football in the Kettering Amateur league brought instant success as Division 2 Champions and by the middle of the decade, Park Wanderers were competing in the top flight. The senior side were 1963 Lower Junior Cup runners up to Woodford United while the Reserves were area winners in 1966. In 1968, Park Wanderers joined the newly formed Third Division of the UCL and they finished third in the league and won the Knockout Cup, beating British Timken Reserves in the final.

A year later BPWFC were promoted as runners up to Long Buckby. We became Burton Park Wanderers FC when we relocated to Burton Latimer in 1971. The club played on the town's recreation ground before switching to the present Latimer Park venue. The 70's saw the club reach the Northants Junior cup final in 1975, but 3 years later were relegated from Division one. Burton Youth Football Club was the only youth football club in Burton Latimer and was founded in 1995 by Derek Styman for the boys of Burton Latimer to

play football under the name of Burton Band Youth Football Club. The first team entered the Weetabix Youth Football League as U11's for the 1995/1996 season but it was not until they reached U13's that a second age group, the U10's, was introduced, both played 11 a side football. The 2007/2008 season saw BYFC enter a team in every age group of the Weetabix Youth Football League for the first time ever with a record 13 teams playing competitive football. The U7's up to U10's playing mini soccer and the remainder playing 11 a side football. 2nd July 2009 saw the merger of the two clubs under the name Burton Park Wanderers Football Club where adult and youth football were featured.

It was and still is the Club's intention to have Women's football and Disability football thereby fulfilling the goal of offering community based football for all ages and abilities. We were also proud to announce that the newly merged Burton Park Wanderers Football Club achieved Charter Status in 2009. June 2010 Burton Park Wanderers moved back home to Pol-



well Lane, Burton Latimer, initially with 1 years lease but discussions continued and a six year lease was secured in August 2010. 2011 saw us celebrating our 50th Anniversary along with ground improvements achieving G Grading.

In 2013 it was agreed to allow Kettering Town FC to groundshare at Latimer Park following their spells at Nene Park in Irthlingborough and Steel Park in Corby. For the next 4 years Burton struggled to remain in the UCL Division One division with changes in management.

In 2017 Kettering Town FC took over the lease on the site with a groundshare agreed with Burton for use of the site for the next 25 years.

In 2017 Daren Young and Tim Broad came in as first team managers and Mark Patrick took over as chairman of the club. This combination led to us finishing 12th in Division One in 2018/19 season.

Following Daren taking time out for work commitments a change in management has taken place in the summer of 2019

with James Logan and Adam Coombs taking over. In his first season James took the club as far as it had ever been in the FA Vase, gained entry to the FA Cup and the club was on target to finish in its highest league position in its history, sadly COVID curtailed the season.

2021 saw the club moved to the Spartan South Midlands League Div 1. New chairman & committee members were appointed with Gina Cleverly taking the role as Chairman.

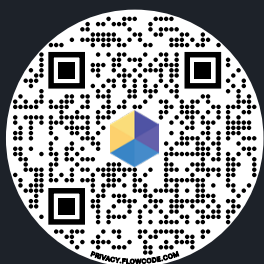
September 2021 saw a change of manager with senior player Kev Buchanan taking the role as 1st team Player Manager. 2021/22 was a tough season and after a couple of decent performance's towards the end of the campaign the club got a reprieve from relegation and we go again in 2022/23.

A poor start to the season has resulted in a change of manager with Daren Young returning to the club with the aim of reviving the club's form



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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	Amphill 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	(D) 0-0	
SAT 25	3:00PM	A	Rugby Borough	(W) 0-2	
TUE 28	3:00PM	H	Buckingham Athletic	(W) 6-0	
MARCH					
SAT 4	3:00PM	H	Holmer Green	(W) 7-1	
SAT 11	3:00PM	H	Burton Park Wanderers		
SAT 18	3:00PM	A	Rushden & Higham United		
TUE 21	7:45PM	A	Northampton Sileby Rangers		
SAT 25	3:00PM	H	Lutterworth Athletic		
WED 29	7:30PM	CF	Elstow Abbey (Bedfordshire County Cup Final)		
APRIL					
SAT 1	3:00PM	A	Northampton ON Chenecks		
SAT 8	3:00PM	A	Langford		
MON 10	3:00PM	H	Amphill 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**
BEN **FITZJOHN**
LEWIS **BURGESS**

BURTON PARK WANDERERS

SAM **STARKEY**
JAMIE **SYKES**
CONOR **BIRD**
BRADLEY **MARSHALL**
KALVIN TYE **TAYLOR**
LEE **GARVIE**
SHAUN **ARCHER**
ZAC **ALLEN**
RYAN **BELL**
JOSH **DRAIN**
MICHAL **TKACIK**
CONNEL **LYONS**
BOYD **LYONS**
LOUIS **MARTIN**
LEWIS **KENNEDY**
LUCA **MCILVANEY**
BRIAN **FARRELL**
JOEY **BUCKINGHAM**

MANAGER: DAREN **YOUNG**
ASSISTANT: GRAEME **ARCHER**
COACH: DAN **GIBBS**

MANAGER: ROB **SINCLAIR**
ASSISTANT MANAGER: MARK **DUCKET**
GOALKEEPING COACH: IAN **BROWN**
HEAD SPORTS THERAPIST: LOTTIE **BURTON**
KITMAN: GERRY **MCCORMACK**