

# THE WHITE PAPER

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



**VS HOLMER GREEN**

SAT 4TH MAR '23  
KICK OFF: 3:00 PM  
ISSUE #17 // £2



# #17

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**ASSISTANT MANAGER:** MARK DUCKETT

**PHYSIO:** LOTTIE BURTON

**GOALKEEPING COACH:** IAN BROWN

**KITMAN:** GERRY MCCORMACK

**GROUNDSKEEPER:** JACK MUDGE

**CLUB HISTORIAN:** GEOFF SEAGRAVE

**BEDFORD LADIES & GIRLS:**

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**CHAIR:** JAY ALLISON



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# FROM THE DRESSING ROOM

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

We had a pleasing result and performance on Tuesday night, winning convincingly against Buckingham Athletic. The boys played some exciting, attacking football which was great to watch. Along with the football, the attitudes shown were impressive.

I have to say that this squad is a great group to work with. The standards they are setting and their commitment is remarkable. They drive each other constantly in training, which shows with the performances they put in on match days. I have full trust in every single player, and it shows with the way we can make

changes to the starting 11 and still come away with positive results.

We now turn our attention to today's opponent Holmer Green. Another challenge for us and one we are all excited about. When you start getting down to the business end of the season, it's important to keep winning games and putting in positive performances, and that's what we will be looking to do today.

We have ten important games to go, plus a cup final against Elstow, so please continue to show the support you have and bring a family member or friend along.

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



I can't believe how quickly this season has gone. We've ten league matches and a cup final left, and that will be it. In just over six weeks, we will know the fate of our entire season. We will know whether all the hard work has paid off and whether we'll be off to play in Step 5 next season.

I spend a lot of time looking at the tables and fixtures. After every game, I run through all the possible scenarios. What if we win this game, lose this game and draw that one? What if we win these three, but what if we lose three on the bounce? I need to know every scenario so that I am available for the manager for anything he needs.

It is incredible how far we have come this season. I put a lot of pressure on myself and the team

with my grand claims of getting Real Bedford into the football league, and as we approach the end of the season, we can smell the first of one of those promotions. We sit 10 points clear, and if we maintain the form we have achieved so far this season, we mathematically can't be caught, but here is the risk, complacency.

While we have had a great season, football is funny, and anything can go wrong. Players can get suspended or injured, refereeing decisions can not go our way, and sometimes we might not perform well enough to win. Complacency is a killer; therefore, we must maintain 100% focus for the rest of the season.

I have to give so much credit to the manager and players. To maintain the levels they have all season is



incredible. With each setback, they have bounced back. After winning their first 11 league games, the team lost to Rugby but bounced back with another eight league wins. After losing to Langford at the start of the year, they bounced back and won three demanding games against Chenecks, Eaton Socon and Northampton Sileby. And after losing to Wellingborough and drawing with Amersham, the lads bounced back with a win away to second in the table Rough Borough.

What this team has is tenacity; they want this title as much as me, and I have every confidence they will deliver it. I also need to thank them as they all know my vision and what I want to do for Bedford, and every one of them has given their all, all season, to help deliver it.

Buckingham could have been another tricky tie, but the lads went out and showed what they are capable of, and they could have scored more than the six they finished with.

Today we face Holmer Green, who we beat 4-0 at their ground earlier in the season. Jordan Brown scored the first-ever Real Bedford hat trick in that game and hasn't stopped scoring since. He scored another two on Tuesday and sits on 24 goals, fourth in the high-scoring chart, four goals off the lead. I think he can finish top scorer.

Thanks again for coming down and supporting our project. Hopefully, by full-time, it will be another three points and nine games to go.

**Peter McCormack,  
Chairman**

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# CAPTAIN'S CORNER

While football is a passion, winning is commitment. To sustain a serious challenge for a title requires many things as a team and an individual. While we spend a lot of time preparing as a team, maintaining a high level requires much work off the pitch.

This combination of team and individual work makes the difference when fighting for a league. The manager can only do so much on training and match days; he can tell us how he wants us to play, motivate us to maintain high performances and give us a boot up the arse when we're not playing well, but the lads have to bond as a team away from him. It is the unity of a team which means players will throw themselves into last-ditch tackles or find that extra 10% during a game.

Away from the team, a player must maintain discipline, which means looking after his body, eating the right food, getting enough sleep and ensuring he prepares right for match day. This commitment also extends to the wider family, whether it is a young lad who may still live with his parents or the more senior players who have wives, girlfriends and children.

The wider family puts up with a lot for players to commit to a team like this. They may have to miss out on important events such as weddings and birthdays and, for nine months, accept that every Saturday is consumed by football. They must also put up with a miserable player as they return home from defeat, perhaps even blaming themselves for the result. Some lads rely on their families to drive them to training and matches; we know some are washing our dirty kits too.

Therefore, I must thank our wider families, as we could not do this without you. I know how hard you work to support us and how much you must sacrifice, and I want you to know how much you are appreciated.

We have another big game today, the last of ten in the league. The end is in sight now, and we will give everything we have to get three more points today and win this title.

**Luke Knight,  
Captain**

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**HASH**

**WE'VE GOT THE**

**CASH**

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# PLAYER PROFILE

**Full name:** Andy Sinclair

**Nickname:** Sincs

**Date of birth:** 12th December 1995

**Place of birth:** Bedford

**Previous clubs:** Luton Town FC, Ampthill Town FC, AFC Bedford United, Dunstable Town FC, Eynesbury Rovers FC.

**Favourite team:** Tottenham Hotspur.

**Favourite player:** Luka Modric.

**Most memorable footballing moment:** Watching England play at Wembley.

**Career highlight:** Playing against Spurs Youth as a Spurs fan.

**Occupation:** Sports Coach.

**Hobby:** Golf.





# REAL HIT BUCKINGHAM FC MAINTAIN GAP AT THE TOP

**Real Bedford put on a 6-goal thriller at McMullen Park to ensure a convincing win over the visiting Buckingham Athletic. With an aggregate score of 13-1 to the Pirates over the two league games, it's clear Real has the Swans' number, and these three points allow for momentum to continue for the Pirates as they sail into the tail end of the season 10 points clear at the top of the table.**

The home side started in the ascendancy. Kevin Owusu was brought back into the starting 11 for Dan Walker, immediately causing headaches for the Buckingham defence. Good work from the winger, and Eddie Corbit forced a corner for Luke Knight to take on the 12-minute mark. A teasing delivery from the skipper found Curtis Hartley unoccupied in the area, allowing the defender to head the ball into the net for his first goal in Real Bedford colours. It was a superb set piece that proved the key to unlocking Buckingham's goal early in the game.

Real continued to pressure the Buckingham defence, with Andy Sinclair and Tom

Hitchcock testing the goalie and a long-range effort from Eddie Corbit just curling wide. But it was another corner which caused more problems for Buckingham. A double save from Buckingham's Daley following another in-swinger from Knight kept both of Tom Hitchcock's efforts out. Still, the keeper couldn't stop a sliced volley from Kevin Owusu from finding the back of the net, as the winger netted a rebound from Tom Wood's strike in the area. The goal doubled Bedford's advantage, as they looked to be in complete control of the game.

Moments later, another Luke Knight corner delivered the goods, this time in a more unorthodox fashion. The skipper whipped the ball well near-post, which deflected off a Buckingham defender into his own goal. Knight took the plaudits, but the Buckingham blunder made it two goals in quick succession for Real Bedford.

Real had one more first-half goal in them, as just before the break, Bedford produced one of the game's best moves. Tom Hitchcock nabbed the ball in midfield,





Real Bedford 6 - 0 Buckingham Athletic  
28th February 2023  
McMullen Park

# FOR SIX TO TOP OF THE LEAGUE

laying it off to Jordan Brown, who raced off down the wing before finding Eddie Corbit, who, on a charging run, delicately backheeled the ball into the path of Tom Hitchcock, who picked his spot in between Buckingham defenders to find the back of the net. It was some delicate interplay from the Pirates, who took a controlling lead heading into the half-time break.

## SECOND HALF

With a four-goal lead within the first 45 for the The Pirates, neither side had many chances within the second. With the game appearing wrapped up, Buckingham pushed hard to get back into the game. The away side seemed invigorated following the break and pressed hard up the pitch, forcing errors from the home side.

Despite Buckingham's hard work, Bedford looked most likely to score again, and Jordan Brown had the ball in the net 10 minutes into the second half, only to be wrongly ruled offside. The prolific striker wouldn't miss out on the scoring and finally found the back of the net towards

the end of the half. A break from Claston Gordon down the wing saw him skip past one defender before putting a clever cross in front of the Buckingham defence for Brown to tap in at the back post, his 23rd goal of the campaign coming after the striker hadn't scored in league action in three weeks.

It was just like London buses for Brown, as he claimed his second of the evening with minutes left on the clock. The pass of the season from the outside of the boot of Archie Culley split the Buckingham Defence, finding Brown, who held off one defender before whipping a ball past the oncoming keeper. This sixth and final goal rounded off a sound performance for The Pirates, building on the win against Rugby Borough on the weekend.

**RBFC:** McGregor, Hartley (Gordon 57'), Clifford, Knight ©, Wood, J. Duckett, Owusu, A. Sinclair (Culley 70'), Hitchcock, Corbit (McGrath 84'), Brown

**Unused Subs:** R. Duckett, Walker



Originally founded in 1908, Holmer played initially in The Chesham and District League. Matches were played at Campbell's Meadow, (now the Rosetti Estate), close to a tennis racket factory. Sometime before 1934 the Club moved to Holmer Green Common and set up headquarters in The Bat and Ball. In 1934 the Club switched to The Wycombe Combination League. The first trophy won by Holmer Green was The Chesham Charity Cup in 1939, the first of 28 Cups and Championships won thus far by the 1st XI.

The early 70's saw the start of a very successful thirty years in the Club's history. Holmer Green moved to their present ground, Watchet Lane, in 1975 when the new Holmer Green Sports Association pavilion was fully ready. Holmer won The Berks & Bucks Intermediate Cup in 1976-77. Senior Status was thus achieved and since then the Club has striven to play at the highest level possible for a strictly amateur club.

The Club was heavily involved in the moves that set up The Chiltonian League in 1984. That League embraced clubs from no less than six different counties. Holmer had been very successful in the Chiltonian, and believed that a move to a better run league, where the clubs were encouraged to improve facilities, should be the next step. The Chiltonian were reluctant

to lose their "flagship" club and tried to stop the move to the The South Midlands League. Not until August 1995 did Holmer Green, through the FA's appeal system, successfully, switch Leagues.

This move gave Holmer Green the impetus to finally erect a Stand, now called The Don Want Stand in honour of the late former long-serving Groundsman, President, and Chairman. In 2014 Don was presented with some mementos to mark his 50 years with the Football Club. He passed away in 2022

Premier Division status was achieved in 1999 after winning the Senior Division twice in four seasons, being 2nd and 4th in between. Floodlights were erected. Centenary events started with a visit from a full Wycombe Wanderers team in July 2007 when the ground record of over 800 was recorded.

In 2008 the Senior Club formally merged with Holmer Green Minors FC to become "One Club" and this occasion coincided with the new Club as a whole being named "Club of the Year 2008" by Bucks & Milton Keynes Sports Partnership.

Season 2008-09 was Holmer's 10th successive one in the Premier Division. After an unexpectedly long stay in the Premier Division,



Holmer Green was demoted to Division One for season 2009-10, despite avoiding the two relegation positions.

Work immediately began to regain the “F” Grading required for Step 5 football to return to Watchet Lane. The 1st XI won the First Division by three points in 2009-10 losing only 3 of 40 games. The coveted “F” Grading was achieved again in 2011.

Manager Chris Allen, who was appointed in 2009, kept the regained Step 5 status for another incredible nine seasons before stepping down in May 2019, with Holmer having gained enough points by early March. By this time the Club had been moved, most unwillingly, into the geographically ridiculous Hellenic League. Chris’ successor, Dave Lynch, resigned after a poor start in August and September 2019. Matt Stowell succeeded Lynch, and results turned before the season was ended due to Covid-19. Matt continued to rebuild for 2020-21 with a seventh place when the season was again terminated early. The club were very happily returned to The Spartan South Midlands League in Summer 2021, with Matt continuing in charge. But a series of poor results including three or four very heavy defeats lead to Matt’s resignation in early December 2021. Assistant Manager, and then Physio, Tom Bryant took over in the meantime,

with assistance from experienced ex-Player and ex-Manager Jez Hodges.

This return “home” meant local games with Aylesbury Vale Dynamos, Tring Athletic, Risborough Rangers, Harefield United, Leighton Town, Leverstock Green, Oxhey Jets, and Dunstable Town. And more importantly, no away trips over an hour long! Unfortunately, Holmer slipped into the relegation position on the last day of the season and another long stint at Step 5 came to an end. Worse news was to follow as the FA’s push to “perfect” the non-league pyramid at Steps 4-6 has created a situation where some leagues have more travelling in the lower division. Quite the opposite of what was intended, and indeed promised.

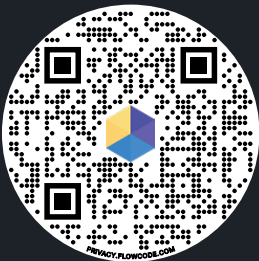
The Greens now face games as far away as Lutterworth in Leicestershire, and Rugby in Warwickshire, as well as a handful of games in Northamptonshire. Tom Bryant was appointed Manager on a permanent basis in the summer of 2022, but left Holmer Green in the August after a series of poor results.

Jez Hodges again took up the reins on an interim basis, before ex-player Paul Batchelor was appointed Manager in late November 2022.



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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		
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 Abbeyt (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**

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

## HOLMER GREEN

JOSH **AMEGANVI**  
AARON **ONGINJO**  
ANTHONY **TYSON**  
OSCAR **RAYMOND**  
JAMES **SAXBY**  
HAYDEN **BUNCH**  
RYAN **HENNESSY**  
DARREN **PAGE**  
SEAN **DUODU**  
JED **DESOUZA**  
JAMES **JARROTT**  
AIDEN **ACKAH-SANZA**  
AARON **BERRY**  
BEN **HODGES**  
YURI **CARDOSO**  
CALLUM **MARTIN**  
OWEN **CONFUE**  
KOBI **AMBROSE**

MANAGER: PAUL **BATCHELOR**  
PHYSIO: HANNAH **BOWRA**  
GK COACH: ANDY **PARSONS**