THE

THE OFFICIAL MATCH DAY PROGRAMME OF REAL BEDFORD FC



VS LONDON TIGERS

SAT 26TH NOV '22 KICK 0FF: 3:00 PM ISSUE #10 // £2









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MANAGER: ROB SINCLAIR

ASSISTANT MANAGER: MARK DUCKET

PHYSIO: LOTTIE BURTON

GOALKEEPING COACH: IAN BROWN 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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Firstly I'd like to give a warm welcome to the London Tigers directors, management, players and supporters.

Today's match is our third meeting with London Tigers this season, with the previous two ending in a win and a defeat. The first meeting was a good 2-1 win away from home, which was a very tough, physical game. The second meeting was a disappointing performance in the cup, our first defeat of the season, where we lost 2-1. I know the staff and boys are excited about the match today and want to make it two wins out of three against London Tigers.

Last Saturday's game against Eaton Socon was eventful, and I'm sure everyone enjoyed it, despite the tense second half. The boy's performance on and off the ball in the first half was tremendous. We completely dominated Eaton Socon and should've gone in more than two up. James Ducket got sent off in the second

half, which, in my opinion, was the wrong decision. Eaton scored from the penalty to make it 2-1, and from that moment, the boys showed their character and togetherness to see the game out with ten men.

I want to thank all the supporters for your continued support. It was great to see another good attendance last week, especially with the awful weather.

After today, we have one home game in December against Amersham Town, so I would love everyone to please bring an extra family member or friend to the game and let's get a record attendance for the club.

Let's hope for another 3 points this afternoon, and everyone goes home with a big smile again.

Rob Sinclair, Manager



My original goal for Real Bedford was to bring success and opportunity to the people of my home town. I have an oversized (some say unrealistic) vision of how much we can achieve with this club, but one year into this project, I have recognised that the club's impact reaches far beyond Bedford.

The World Cup has highlighted the vital role that football can play in championing critical social issues. While the international game has flaws, the World has been focused on discussing equality since FIFA awarded Qatar the tournament, a response to the corruption and hypocrisy allowed to fester within certain parts of the sport for generations.

Football is a unifying force. It is followed by the rich and poor alike and is one of the most accessible sports in the World. Whether you are from the slums of Rio or the suburbs of London, with only rudimentary equipment, you can play football. Pelé was so poor that his family couldn't afford a football: he had to use a stuffed sock. Diego Maradona, also born into poverty, famously stated that football was his "salvation".

Even for those who don't play, football can provide relief from the daily grind. Following a football team can be frustrating and painful, but it has the potential to captivate and surprise. There are those sublime occasions when an unexpected goal can reverberate around the World, like we saw this week when Japan and Saudi Arabia overcame powerhouses of International football. There is a universal language in football, one which always screams for the underdog. As such, a set of universal values have developed, ensuring that all colours, creeds, and, as should have been celebrated during this World Cup, sexual identities and genders are welcome.

Excuse the pun, but football scored an own goal this World Cup, with FIFA applying pressure on players wanting to protest against discriminatory policies in Qatar. International football has no place for activism if FIFA wants to protect its money-making machine. Sadly, this lack of ethics has leaked into the club game, most notably with the Saudi Public Investment Fund able to pass the fit and proper person test and acquire Newcastle United.

Club football should be the foundation of footballing

principles. The game's bedrock is now worth many billions of dollars. Whilst leaders within the sport may seek to compromise important societal values for personal gain; this doesn't mean the rest of us have to stand by as powerless witnesses. It is vital that all football clubs, at every level, serve as a sound basis for the game, which means serving rather than exploiting fans and being loud on important societal issues. This is because football belongs to everyone, so football should be everyone's champion.

Some believe football clubs should not be there to make a stand on issues outside of football. 'Sport and politics don't mix' is a common excuse, but this is not something I agree with. Football clubs don't operate in a vacuum; they are an integral part of a community and reflect the society in which they operate. Whilst most major clubs stand for important issues such as inclusion, these tend to be the big societal issues pushed forward by the respective football associations they represent. There appear to be few clubs ready to take the lead and challenge the establishment, as making activism part of a club's culture risks upsetting corporate sponsors. Financial demands take precedence over everything else. As a result, large clubs appear to have lost a sense of identity and purpose.

I want to address this with my club. I want Real Bedford to serve a greater purpose. A football club can have an outsized platform to promote issues, which can be skewed by the owner(s), but this can also be a force for good. To do this, a club must be transparent about what it stands for and how it seeks to act and engage in all interactions. It must also be accountable to all stakeholders: investors, staff, volunteers, fans and the community it seeks to represent.

I have been inspired by St. Pauli, a club in Germany which has built a cult following around the World. In the 1980s, St. Pauli evolved into a team representing left-leaning politics and social activism. As fascist-inspired hooliganism was growing in the game, they stood up against right-wing nationalism, banning any representation at the ground. While the club promotes tolerance and acceptance of all races, genders and sexualities, social activism is also part of its culture. St. Pauli's fan-led initiatives include free training sessions and subsidised away trips for local kids, fundraising to provide accommodation for the homeless, organising



anti-racist grassroots tournaments and helping to set up a team for refugees and migrants, FC Lampedusa.

In 2009 FC St. Pauli became the first club in Germany to adopt a set of guiding principles. The first two of these state:

"FC St. Pauli, in its totality of members, employees, supporters and volunteers, is part of the local community and, as such, is affected directly and indirectly by societal changes in the political, cultural and social spheres.

 FC St. Pauli accepts this social responsibility and promotes the interests of its members, employees, supporters and volunteers beyond the sphere of

sport."

I have been amazed at how people have taken to the Real Bedford project, and I now feel a greater sense of responsibility beyond just success for my home town. While I hoped to build up a solid foundation of support in Bedford, we have had people come to McMullen Park from France, Slovakia, Belgium and America, with others planning trips from all over the World. We regularly have up to 500 people following our live streams and have sold over 1,600 shirts and hundreds of hoodies and t-shirts. Every one of these fans supports the club, represents the name Bedford around the World and is part of a broader social movement we are pushing. So it has become a necessary time to think about the ethos and principles of the club and what Real Bedford stands for.

We have yet to determine the guiding principles for Real Bedford, but we have two main issues that will guide this. We are apolitical, and we will promote financial education.

While St. Pauli is a left-wing club, Real Bedford isn't. We will neither be left nor right. The issues of the World are being exacerbated by political polarisation. Our club will seek to collaborate and work with everyone where possible. We will not use our club to promote political ideologies, as no political party has a monopoly on good ideas. If we champion a cause, it will be because we believe it has merit and is the right thing to do.

In terms of Bitcoin advocacy, this is not a business decision. Bitcoin-connected companies sponsor Real Bedford, and we use Bitcoin within the club, but the

technology is a new form of money open to the World. Whilst it is used as a store of value, and many people buy it as an investment, it is not an investment vehicle in itself. It is too large a currency for any wider adoption within Bedford to impact its value. Our promotion of Bitcoin is solely predicated on our belief that it has merit and is the right thing to do. It is a technology designed to promote economic freedom and human rights. Bitcoin is unifying diverse communities across the World seeking personal sovereignty, privacy and dignity. But Bitcoin has utility for everyone: it is sound, trustless, digital money that enables people to transact instantly with anyone anywhere at any time and avoid the disastrous consequences of failed government economic policies.

Our role is to provide people with all the appropriate information on Bitcoin: the risks and rewards, the tradeoffs involved, and the divergent opinions. We believe that by educating people and presenting them with facts, they will be able to determine whether it is a technology they want to adopt. If they choose to adopt Bitcoin, we can support them in using the technology safely and responsibly. If they decide Bitcoin is not for them, they can watch and support the team and get behind the other initiatives we support.

In the coming months, we will develop Real Bedford's guiding principles. Over time, we will champion specific causes and try to make a positive material impact concerning these. Such causes will be linked to the local community and some to important national and international issues. However, we want to develop our approach in consultation with fans and other stakeholders to ensure we cover causes that resonate. Fundamentally, we want to be a club that makes a difference and makes everyone associated with us proud.

Central to all of this is success on the pitch. That will always be our primary focus. Footballing success will amplify all the other positive contributions we want to make as a club. If you have any questions or comments regarding this, please feel free to get in touch.

Peter McCormack, Chairman

HACKED. Stacked.

GOT BITCOIN? GET [LEDGER]





While it is great that we are top of the league, a place we have been for most of the season, it comes with a lot of pressure which is why we must stay focused.

Firstly, when you are at the top, everyone wants to beat you, and teams find an extra gear because they want the Real Bedford scalp. We saw this with Rugby Borough, who came with a disciplined plan, inflicting our only league defeat of the season.

Secondly, the chasing pack are waiting for us to slip up, for us to drop points so that they can close the gap. As captain, I must remind the lads that every game is a cup final for us too, and we have to maintain a relentless focus on winning and not give any of our rivals a glimmer of hope.

Maintaining this focus requires mental strength, as we know people out there want us to lose. We avoid the noise, ignore the comments on social media and focus on one game at a time, which means we turn up every week, train hard and leave nothing on the pitch when Saturday comes.

The chairman wants us to win the league and set that as our number one goal at the start of the season. He has recognised his role in this and has done everything he can to provide us with everything we need to achieve that goal. The lads and I realise how hard he is working for Bedford, and in return, we are doing everything we can to give the club the best chance of retaining our position at the top of the league come April, when the season ends.

It isn't just about the chairman, the manager or us, the players, anymore. We also recognise you, the fans, who have been coming week in and week out to support us. We see how many of you have bought into the vision of Real Bedford, and we want to deliver for you too. Thanks for coming down to McMullen Park today, where I hope we give you another win to celebrate.

Luke Knight, Captain YOU'VE GOT THE LASS WE'VE GOT THE CASH

NOT THAT KIND OF HASH...

Iuxor.tech



I am pleased to have accepted the opportunity to become the new manager of Bedford Ladies and Girls FC; this represents a new challenge and one that I felt I could not turn down. I am excited by the plans presented to me by Jill, and I look forward to working hard with everyone associated with the club to make this a reality.

I was with Luton Town Ladies for ten years, working with their First Team for the last four years. I enjoyed my time there, would like to thank them for their support and wish them well in the future.

I have been working with the team for a few weeks now. I have been pleased with how they have responded to my ideas, and our performances are improving with every game.

My first game in charge was a real baptism of fire against Hashtag United, in the FA Cup, who currently sit in the division above, so we knew it would not be easy. However, after a tricky start, the girls reacted well to some tactical tweaks, which boded well for the future. My next game was a close defeat to Haringey Borough away, followed by a win against Kings Lynn Town at home.

I am looking forward to the rest of the season with positivity and hoping for another win this Sunday against Harlow Town.

Steve Worrell, Manager



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Full name: Claston Gordon

Nickname: CJ, Ceej

Date of birth: 10th September 2002

Place of birth: Woolwich

Previous clubs: Moulton, Dulwich Hamlet.

Favourite team: Liverpool.

Favourite player: Neymar.

Most memorable footballing moment: Suarez scoring 4 against Norwich in the 13/14 season.

Career highlight: Beating West Brom 2-0 in front of Sam Allardyce.

GEMIN

Occupation: Football Coach.

Hobby: Gaming





Real Bedford again showed grit and determination to grind out another 3 points against Eaton Socon. The 10-man Bedford absorbed 40 minutes of pressure from the away side after a dominant first half in which they managed to score twice.

Eaton Socon arrived at McMullen Park looking to inflict a defeat on their local rivals, demonstrating their pedigree this season with wins against Northampton Sileby and Ampthill Town.

Aware of the Socon's quality, Bedford pushed hard first half and dominated possession and territory from the whistle. Despite the early pressure it took 30-minutes for the home side to create their first clear-cut chance. Kevin Owusu, a handful for Eaton Socon defenders, cut inside and crossed a ball, which was met with a thunderous effort from Tom Hitchcock, deflecting off Tom Roberts in the away team's defence.

Sadly for Roberts, he followed his heroic block with an own goal. This time it was Jordan Brown taking on the defence, picking up the ball at the edge of the penalty box before crossing it into the area. The ball deflected off the defender and found the back of the net,

providing the spark for Real, and it seemed like the floodgates were about to open.

A few minutes later the home side made it two, with James Ducket and Jim Burnside linking up on the right flank. A clever 1-2 between the two put Ducket behind the defence allowing him to place an expertly delivered cross towards the waiting Jordan Brown, who rifled the ball into the roof of the net. This was Brown's 13th goal of the season, surpassing Dan Walker and becoming Bedford's top goalscorer of this campaign.

Straight from kick-off, the home team regained possession and again caused trouble for the seemingly shaky Eaton Socon back four. Darting down the wing, Kevin Owusu squared the ball to Hitchcock in what has become a regular feature of this Real Bedford side, Hitchcock's effort once again requiring a deflection to keep it out of the net.

Harry Murray nodded the ball down at the front post from the resulting corner and managed to get a scrappy shot away, which needed a goal-line clearance from Eaton Socon's Dixon to deny the Pirates a 3-goal deficit heading into the break.



This was one of Bedford's most dominant first-half displays of the season, leaving the home supporters in high spirits heading for half-time beverages.

SECOND HALF

Real Bedford started the second half similarly to the first, applying pressure from the wings and utilising a high line to snuff out most Eaton Socon forward advances.

Ten minutes into the second period and the game changed. Eaton Socon's Rhys Thorpe found a crack in the orange wall bursting into the penalty area under pressure from James Ducket. The striker managed to find a shot that Tyler McGregor saved well but a light touch on Thorpe was enough for referee Zach Cunningham to give Eaton Socon a penalty whilst also sending Bedford's centre-half for an early shower, showing him the red card.

The decision was far from popular with the McMullen Park faithful, but Dixon remained composed and slotted the penalty past McGregor, and Real Bedford now faced a tricky 40 minutes of football a man down.

Bedford demonstrated their fight with superb defensive stints from Tom Wood and Harry Murray, keeping the away side relatively quiet despite having the numbers advantage.

The Pirates did survive one late scare, but the man for big moments, Tyler McGregor, once again kept the points at McMullen Park. Former Bedford striker Scott Joseph picked up a stray pass from Matt Clifford, and used Thorpe to find Jake Alderson. With time and space, he produced a cracking shot towards Real Bedford's goal, but McGregor met it with another save for the scrapbook.

The Referee appeared to find 13 minutes of injury time, producing a nervy end to the game, but with the odds and conditions against Rob Sinclair's men, Real Bedford still managed to secure the win. The result maintained their 12-point lead at the top of The Spartan South Midland's Division One league table.

The home side will likely reflect on this as one of the most important wins of the season. The whole team needs commending for a disciplined performance which ensured the win.

RBFC: McGregor, Gordon, Clifford, Murray, J.Ducket, Wood ©, Owusu, Corbit, Burnside (Walker 79'), Hitchcock (McGrath 64'), Brown. **Unused Subs:** Sinclair, R.Ducket, McLeod-Bent-





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SPARTAN SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUEDIV 1 - FIXTURES 2022/23

AUGUST				
SAT 6	3:00PM	Н	Rushden & Higham United	(W) 3-0
SAT 13	3:00PM	А	Buckingham Athletic	(W) 1-7
SAT 20	3:00PM	Α	Burton Park Wanderers	(W) 1-2
TUE 23	7:45PM	Н	Letchworth Garden City Eagles	(W) 3-0
SEPTEMBER				
SAT 3	3:00PM	Α	London Tigers	(W) 1-2
TUE 6	7:45PM	Н	Raunds Town (Gladwish Challenge Trophy)	(W) 9-1
SAT 17	3:00PM	А	Holmer Green	(W) 1-4
TUE 20	7:45PM	Н	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	7.30FW	A	London rigers (Division One Cup)	(L) 1-2
SAT 1	3:00PM	н	Lutterworth Athletic	(W) 1-0
TUE 4	7:45PM	A	Raunds Town	(W) 0-2
SAT 8	3:00PM	Н	Winslow United	(W) 0-2 (W) 4-1
SAT 15	3:00PM	Н		
TUE 18	7:45PM	A	Rugby Borough Letchworth Garden City Eagles	(L) 2-1
SAT 22	7:45PM 3:00PM	A	, ,	(W) 0-2
			Moulton FC	(W) 1-2
SAT 29	3:00PM	Α	Aylesbury Vale Dynamos (Gladwish Challenge Trophy)	(W) 0-1
NOVEMBER	2.00044		0 17	
SAT 5	3:00PM	Н	Raunds Town	(W) 9-0
SAT 19	3:00PM	Н	Eaton Socon	(W) 2-1
SAT 26 3:00PM H London Tigers				
DECEMBER	0.00014			ı
SAT 3	2:00PM	A	Flitwick Town First (Bedfordshire County Cup, Senior Trophy)	
TUE 6	7:45PM	A	Thame Reserves	
SAT 10	3:00PM	A	Wellingborough Whitworth	
SAT 17	3:00PM	H A	Amersham Town	-
TUE 27 7:45PM A Ampthill Town JANUARY				
MON 2	3:00PM	Н	Langford	
SAT 7	3:00PM	A	Northampton Sileby Rangers	
TUE 10	7:45PM	A	Northampton ON Chenecks	
SAT 28	3:00PM	Н	Wellingborough Whitworth	
FEBRUARY				
WED 1	7:45PM	А	Eaton Socon	
SAT 11	3:00PM	Н	Northampton Sileby Rangers	
SAT 18	3:00PM	Н	Buckingham Athletic	
SAT 25	3:00PM	A	Rugby Borough	
MARCH	3.001 111	- ^ -	g.,oug	
SAT 4	3:00PM	Н	Holmer Green	
SAT 11	3:00PM	Н	Burton Park Wanderers	<u> </u>
SAT 18	3:00PM	A	Rushden & Higham United	
SAT 25	3:00PM	Н	Lutterworth Athletic	
APRIL				
SAT 1	3:00PM	А	Northampton ON Chenecks	
SAT 8	3:00PM	А	Langford	
MON 10	3:00PM	Н	Ampthill Town	
SAT 15	3:00PM	Н	Thame United Reserves	
SAT 22	3:00PM	А	Winslow United	
				•

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London Tigers began life as a small local football club in 1986, under the name Marylebone FC. This was run by a handful of dedicated volunteers with a passion for football, who organised training at North Westminster Upper School (now known as Westminster Academy). The training sessions engaged young people from the deprived inner-city areas from across Westminster to enter into all types of sporting activities and to realise their dreams and aspirations around sports in general.

Marylebone FC competed in local, regional and national small-sided competitions and became a renowned and dominant force within the Asian sports scene. By the mid 90's the membership and activities of the club became so diverse, there was a clear a need to set up formal structures and processes to ensure the legacy of the work within a quality assurance framework. London Tigers was therefore formed to cater for the health and sporting needs for people living in the North Westminster area. Two youth teams were set up who participated in the Lillie Road 5-a-side league. As the club grew and the young players became older, London Tigers joined the mainstream leagues.

In 2002, London Tigers FC joined the Middlesex County Premier League. They

won the Alex Smith Premier Divisions Cup in 2006 and having achieved success in the Middlesex County League, London Tigers joined the Spartan South Midlands League, providing opportunities to inner-city young players to play football at a more challenging level; during this time, the amalgamation of London Tigers with Kingsbury Town FC formed Kingsbury London Tigers FC.

2011 was a defining year for Tigers as they moved to a new home the ground in Greenford, setting up as an independent club away from Kingsbury, forming a Football Committee and a formal constitution under the brand of London Tigers FC. In 2015/16, Tigers succeeded in progressing beyond the 2nd qualifying round of the FA Vase cup. Season 2016/17 started with a new management team through a joint venture that saw London Tigers work with external partners for the first time. This change proved to be a difficult process which saw significant shifts in structure and playing styles that impacted on the performance levels on the pitch carrying onto the 2017/18 season and after seeing relegation in 2018/19 season, London Tigers now find themselves in the Spartan South Midlands Division 1.

MATCHDAY SQUAD



V

LONDON // TIGERS

REAL BEDFORD

TYLER MCGREGOR **ROB DUCKET** JAMES DUCKET TYRFILE MCLEOD BENTLEY TOM HITCHCOCK **KEVIN OWUSU CLASTON GORDON**

LONDON TIGERS

ILYAS DAHDOUH
RAYAN HADDI
OSAMA AALOUACHE
FABIO RODRIGUES
ADAM NEJJARY
HAMZA MIEZOU
TASHAWN BROWN
YOUNES BOUDHAR
JORDAN SINGLAIR
MOHAMED BOUCHAB
DUSHIYAN SATHIYASEELAN
JADELL BROWN
MOHAMED MOHAMED
RAHEEM CHENTOUF
OKERA LEWIS
IARA LEWIS
SAMUEL NWOSU

MANAGER: ALAA DRISSI

MANAGER: ROB SINCLAIR
ASSISTANT MANAGER: MARK DUCKET
GOALKEEPING COACH: IAN BROWN

HEAD SPORTS THERAPIST: LOTTIE BURTON