

THE WHITE PAPER

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



**VS NORTHAMPTON
ON CHENECKS**

TUES 10TH JAN '23
KICK OFF: 7:45 PM
ISSUE #11 // £2

#12



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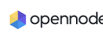
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CHAIR: JAY ALLISON



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FROM THE DRESSING ROOM

I'd like to give a warm welcome to the Northampton O.N. Chenecks directors, management, players and supporters.

We had a disappointing result against Langford last week, losing 3-1. As a group, we are looking to get a positive result tonight and gain some momentum in what is a crucial period in the season.

Chenecks have a really good squad, and we know tonight will be a challenge for us, but it's one we are all excited about.

I am delighted to make a new signing this week in Curtis Hartley. Curtis has joined us from Corby Town. He is a great addition to the squad and strengthens us as a group for the remainder of the season.

A massive thank you to all the fans that attended the Langford game. 272 fans is tremendous for a step 6 fixture. Please continue with this fabulous support, as it really does make a difference.

Rob Sinclair,
Manager



FROM THE BOARDROOM

I am currently away in America with work. I host a podcast, and I travel to the US every six weeks to make my show. I now travel with mixed feelings, I love making the show but being away from the team, and McMullen Park is hard. I don't like missing games, and I don't like not being available to support Rob and the team.

We have managed to build up excellent support in America, and our game against Northampton Sileby had fifty people planning to come out and watch the live stream at 9am. Sadly, Sileby had to postpone the game due to a waterlogged pitch, but 30 people still turned up to hang out and learn more about the team.

I fly to Austin on Tuesday, and more people are coming out to watch us take on Northampton ON Chenecks. Wherever I travel in the US, a group

of people will come out and watch games; we had 20 in Miami and 40 in LA.

When I get to these meet-ups, I'm surrounded by people in Real Bedford hoodies and shirts. These new fans are eager with questions, asking about everything from how promotion and relegation work to the difference between the leagues and the cups. It is easy to dismiss this interest in our beautiful game and make fun of these questions, but I am the same when watching US sports.

Our live streams are also proving successful, regularly seeing 250 - 500 people sign in, with many in our Telegram group discussing the action. When games are postponed, or we can't stream them, they are equally disappointed and ask for updates.

While the Premier League dominates



attention, alongside the Wrexham takeover, this growing awareness in non-league football supports everything we are trying to achieve in Bedford. So while I am quick to thank local supporters, I also want to thank our international supporters.

Now back to our local supporters. We had 272 turn up for our first game of the year against Langford, two people away from setting a new record. While we lost the game, I want to thank everyone who came out to cheer the lads on, it does make a massive difference to the players and the club, and I hope we can continue this trend.

Sitting 18th in the league, I arrived at the game expecting a win, and I am now disappointed in my complacency. Langford deserved the win; they were well-organised, took their chances and defended well.

I reflected on the game and realised that my complacency could impact the club. Football is hard, and our success in growing support for the team has come from hard work, and we must continue to deliver a first-class experience for fans. I have been in awe of Rob's professionalism all season and want to ensure I match this so that my team gives his team everything they need to be successful on the pitch.

Langford was a wake-up call, and I have realised how I must always be 100% focused to do my job of supporting the club. Thank you again for all your support with the club, whether you are coming down to McMullen Park or following the stream online.

**Peter McCormack,
Chairman**

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CAPTAIN'S CORNER

We lost our last home game against Langford 3 - 1, a wake-up call to me and the lads, in that we have won nothing yet. While we prepared well for the match, Langford outperformed us in the first half, taking a three-goal lead into the break.

We came out for the second half ready to fight, but Langford held on for the win despite us getting an early goal back. I don't want to take anything away from Langford, they were organised, played well and deserved the win, but as Captain, I have had to reflect on this result and consider what we have to do to maintain our momentum this season.

Tonight we face our most challenging test yet against Northampton ON Chenecks, who have a very strong

squad, but these are the games I live for, because as players, we want to play the best and prove ourselves as a team.

The squad has reacted brilliantly to the defeat against Langford and trained hard all week, giving that extra 10% to ensure that we do everything we can to deliver another three points.

We have 17 league games to go, and I will ensure that the lads are focused on the run in, and do everything we can to win the title and secure promotion.

**Luke Knight,
Captain**

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FROM THE OFFICE

After many months of progression, the slow-down during the festive season and recent bad weather has caused a few blips in the road. Recently, several games have been postponed, including our Christmas home game against Amersham due to a frozen pitch and this weekend's match against Northampton Sileby due to a waterlogged pitch. We also saw our second loss of the season last week at home to Langford.

However, during this period, we also played in front of a record crowd of 401 at our neighbour Ampthill. We took over 100 Real Bedford fans to the game and managed to win 3 - 1.

The Langford loss hit us all hard, but Langford played well, fought hard and deserved the win. Earlier in the season, after a ten-game winning run, we lost to Rugby Borough, and we achieved another ten wins before we lost again to Langford. If we can go another ten games before we lose again, I think I speak for everyone when I say we will be happy with these stats.

We now face a tough run of games in January, and teams fighting for promotion will be looking to take points from us. We understand that being at the top of the table puts a certain

amount of pressure on us. We have a great manager in Rob Sinclair, and I know he will be making sure that we maintain the high standard that we have seen all season.

We're not going to win every game, but that is part of the enjoyment of football. This is where we need your help. So please keep coming down and supporting the players as we know how much of a positive impact that has on the team. It was great to see nearly 300 come down after New Year, so let's keep trying to smash that attendance record as the weather gradually improves.

Lastly, we have been making steady progress off the pitch. A new long lease for the ground has been prepared, enabling us to develop the ground infrastructure further. Much-needed repairs to the clubhouse continue, and we are pleased to have also been accepted into a national FA programme that will support our strategic planning and hopefully help us to achieve our goals over the coming seasons.

Tom Pattinson,
CEO



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PLAYER PROFILE

Full name: Matthew Clifford

Nickname: Clifford

Date of birth: 9th May 1992

Place of birth: Bedford

Previous clubs: Stevenage, Potters Bar, Biggleswade Town, Bedford Town, Eynesbury Rovers.

Favourite team: Chelsea.

Favourite player: Frank Lampard.

Most memorable footballing moment: Droghda's winning penalty in the 2012 Champions League Final.

Career highlight: Winning promotion & the cup with Biggleswade Town.

Occupation: Insurance broker.

Hobby: Golf.





LANGFORD'S 3 - 1 WIN ENDS MATCH WINNING STREAK

Real Bedford fell short for the second time in the league this season, losing out to a well-organised Langford. Three goals in the first half were enough to see the away side take all three points despite a valiant second-half performance from The Pirates.

Far from the ideal start to the new year, Real Bedford ended their 10-game, allowing Rugby Borough to tighten the gap at the top of the table.

Despite ending up on the wrong side of the score line, Real Bedford started the brighter of the two teams. Sinclair and Knight playing testing balls through the middle of the field, causing problems for the Langford backline. Real Bedford nearly took the lead early in the half when Knight's threaded through ball found Jordan Brown. The striker glided past keeper Devon Phelan, but with the goal open, Langford defender Perry slid

in and blocked the ball from crossing the line.

Minutes later, it was Langford's first chance at goal. Some good dribbling from youngster Jack White led him to play a teasing ball to star striker Adio who turned superbly and calmly slotted the ball past McGregor to allow Langford to take an unexpected lead.

After a balanced next 20 minutes of play, with Real Bedford searching for an equaliser, Langford struck again from a set piece. A ball swung in from the corner was fumbled by McGregor, leaving the ball for Perry Heritage to bundle over the line and double the away team's advantage. A solid crowd of 272 had come out for the game, and the home supporters were getting nervous. Real pushed for a goal and came close off the back of a great ball from Luke Knight. His corner found Duckett's head, but the defender



Real Bedford 1 - 3 Langford
2nd January 2023
McMullen Park

REAL BEDFORD'S 10 K AT MCMULLEN PARK

failed to find the target, and the frustrations piled up for the home side.

Just before the break, Langford struck Bedford another blow. A superb shot from Langford winger Basra tested McGregor, forcing a save which unfortunately fell in front of the poaching Adio who tapped it home for a brace, putting Langford firmly in the driving seat heading into the break.

SECOND HALF

Rob Sinclair made three changes at the break as Bedford searched for a miracle comeback to keep their undefeated streak alive, bringing on Dan Walker, Tom Wood and Ben McGrath.

Bedford appeared the brighter of the two teams coming out for the second period, pushing hard to get back in the game, and pulled a goal back 7 minutes into the half. After attempting an auda-

cious volley, Luke Knight picked up the ball on the edge of the box and, with a bit more space, picked his spot and curled the ball into the top right corner. The goal a potential lifeline to turn up the volume around McMullen Park.

Bedford looked to build on this goal, and a Matt Clifford's effort forced a goal-line clearance from former Bedford player Michael Pickard. Langford finished the game with ten men, with Basra receiving a second yellow card and an early shower for pushing Jordan Brown in an off-the-ball scuffle. However, Langford managed to hold and secure all three points, a deserved result for the away side.

RBFC: McGregor, Gordon, Clifford, Knight ©, J. Duckett, Uttridge (Wood, 45'), Corbit, Sinclair (McGrath, 45'), Burnside, Owusu (Walker, 45'), Brown
Unused Subs: R. Duckett, Culley.



THE AWAY TEAM

The club was founded as Chenecks FC in 1946 under the guidance of well-known Coroner Sergeant of the Borough Police, George Lloyd. The club was formed to enable boys at the rugby playing Northampton Grammar School to play football. The club's unusual name is derived from the School Houses, Chipsey, Spencer, Beckett and St Crispins.

The club became members of the Northampton Minor League playing at Under 17 level, and when the team were too old for youth football the club joined the Northampton Town League in 1950, playing at Abington Park. In 1960 the Old Northamptonians Association invited the club to become one of their sports sections, thus Chenecks became ON Chenecks and relocated to the Billing Road sports ground.

They joined the United Counties Football League in 1969, and have had continuous membership ever since, albeit for most of the early years in the lower divisions of the league. The club has twice won the Division One Championship in

1977-78 and 1979-80, but were denied promotion to the Premier Division due to ground grading criteria as the club were restricted to develop their shared facilities. ON Chenecks beat Tam O'Shanter from Coventry to win the 1985 Daventry Charity Cup final and in 1994 they were Northants Junior Cup runners-up, losing 1-0 to Vanaid. In 1996 they lost 4-0 to Co-genhoe in the Daventry Charity Cup final having beaten Southern League Rothwell Town 1-0 away en route to the final.

In the 2009-10 season the club won its first major honour under the guidance of Andy Marks when they picked up the Northants Junior Cup with a 1-0 victory over local rivals N'ton Silbey Rangers at Nene Park.

The 2010-11 season saw rookie manager Graham Cottle accept the vacant position. Under his guidance the club had considerable success, winning the Northants Junior Cup in 2013/14 and 2014/15 and gaining promotion to the top UCL flight for the first time in the club's history after finishing runners up in 2015/16. The



club also participated in a national competition for the first time, defeating Sun Sports 2-1 in the FA Vase.

Under the guidance of Chairman Mr E Slinn, developments have also progressed of the field, with the erection of floodlights, extra seating, pitch barriers etc over the last couple of years which has enabled the club to secure the sufficient ground grading criteria. In 2016/17 as well as participating in UCL Premier Division topflight, the club entered the FA Cup for the first time, losing to Harefield United in a replay.

After finishing a highly respectable 12th position in their first topflight season, Chenecks had a change in management with highly respected UCL prolific goal scorer Ben Foster taking over the managers hot seat, with a 17th place finish in the 2017-18 season and 15th spot secured in 2018-19. Club Secretary Bryan Lewin picked up the UCL Administrator of the Year Award in 2019.

As with all other clubs and leagues, the

last two seasons have been affected by the Covid pandemic, which has seen both campaigns unfinished, although both the First and Reserves did reach the UCL Supplementary Cup finals in 2020-21, with the Reserves defeating Harborough 4-3 after penalty kicks to secure the trophy. In the close season Ben Foster stepped down for personal reasons and has been replaced internally with two of his backroom staff; Lee Burdett and Wayne Richardson promoted as Joint Managers.

After two seasons with Covid restrictions the 2021-22 season Chenecks finish second from bottom, despite a strong end to the campaign. As part of the FA's National League System restructuring, Chenecks relegation saw them placed in the Spartan South Midlands League Division One along with a host of ex-UCL clubs. This season the club has a new management team, headed by Jamie Forrest who last season managed Bugbrooke St Michaels and a host of new players.

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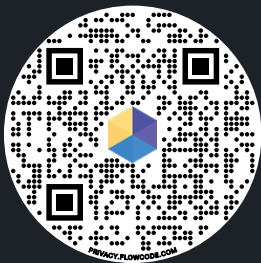
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SPARTAN SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE

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, Senior Trophy)	(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
SAT 7	3:00PM	A	Northampton Sileby Rangers	P-P
TUE 10	7:45PM	H	Northampton ON Chenecks	
SAT 14	3:00PM	H	Amersham Town	
SAT 21	2:00PM	A	AFC Caddington S&S First (Bedfordshire County Cup)	
SAT 28	3:00PM	H	Wellingborough Whitworth	
TUE 31	7:45PM	A	Eaton Socon	
FEBRUARY				
SAT 11	3:00PM	H	Northampton Sileby Rangers	
SAT 18	3:00PM	H	Buckingham Athletic	
SAT 25	3:00PM	A	Rugby Borough	
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	Amphill Town	
SAT 15	3:00PM	H	Thame United Reserves	
SAT 22	3:00PM	A	Winslow United	

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MATCHDAY SQUAD



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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**
JIM **BURNSIDE**
ARCHIE **CULLEY**
HARRY **MURRAY**
EDDIE **CORBIT**
MATT **CLIFFORD**
FLYNN **BAKER-BOND**
DAN **WALKER**
TOM **HITCHCOCK**
KEVIN **OWUSU**
CLASTON **GORDON**

NORTHAMPTON ON CHENECKS

BRADLEY **LASHLEY**
GEORGE **BARNELL**
AARON PETER **DICKENS**
ADAM **CONFUE**
ALEX **DONALD**
ROSS **HARRIS**
DANIEL **HOLMAN**
GREGORY **LING**
TAYLOR **OROSZ**
ROBERT **PARSONS**
MAX **PRICKETT-REED**
CALLUM **WESTWOOD**
JACK **ASHTON**
LUKE **DAVIS**
LEWIS **IRWIN**
ARCHIE **MAY-CORCORAN**
KELVIN **MOYO**
NATHAN **SCHAMPIER**

MANAGER: JAMIE **FORREST**
ASSISTANT: LEE **BURDETT**
ASSISTANT: WAYNE **RICHARDSON**

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