

# THE WHITE PAPER

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



**VS RAUNDS TOWN FC**

**GLADWISH CHALLENGE TROPHY**

**TUESDAY 6TH SEPTEMBER 2022**

**KICK OFF: 7:45 PM**

**ISSUE #3 // £2**

# #3



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**PHYSIO:** LOTTIE BURTON

**GOALKEEPING COACH:** LOUIS ONEILL

**KIT MANAGER:** JON DARCY

**GROUNDSKEEPER:** JACK MUDGE

**CLUB HISTORIAN:** GEOFF SEAGRAVE

**BEDFORD LADIES & GIRLS**

**CHAIR:** JILL UPTON

**BEDFORD PARK RANGERS**

**CHAIR:** JAY ALLISON



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# FROM THE DRESSING ROOM

Firstly I'd like to warmly welcome Raunds Town directors, management, players and supporters.

Raunds will be a tough test for us tonight on what is the start of our journey in a cup competition. The whole group is looking forward to the game, and we hope to continue our winning form.

Looking back at August, we've had a fantastic start getting the maximum 12 points on offer. The group is getting stronger as we have players returning from injury and to full fitness. Massive thanks go to Lottie, as I know how hard she has had to work to get us into a healthy situation.

I'd also like to thank all the supporters who

have turned up. It makes a huge difference having you all behind us. I know the lads appreciate it, so thank you.

September is a busy period for us, and each game will pose different challenges. Our opening fixture of the month against London Tigers proved a tricky game against a tough opposition but the team dug deep and got all three points. As a group, we are excited about what this month could bring and believe it will be another positive group of results.

Once again, thank you for the support and keep getting behind the boys!

**Rob Sinclair,**  
Manager



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# FROM THE BOARDROOM

In my short time as a chairman, I have quickly learned that a football club's success requires everyone to buy into the vision and pull together. Our goal is to bring league football to Bedford, and when I sat down with our manager Rob in the summer, I had one question for him, what do you need to win the league?

With Rob's requirements, I set to work with my Chief Executive Tom and Chief of Operations Emma and outlined exactly what we needed to do as a management team. Not only did we need to support the manager and team as best possible, but we also needed to build a sustainable club and fan base.

Getting to the end of August with maximum points and top of the league was the perfect start to this campaign. So a big thanks to Rob and the players for their hard work and focus. We have stated to build a healthy operational business and a growing local and international fan base, which will support the long-term sustainability of this project, so I also need to thank Tom and Emma for their hard work.

With everything we do, our benchmark is the Premier League, in that we review what the Premier League clubs do and see how close we can get. Don't laugh, we are realistic about this; for example, with our ground, we accept what we have, in that we're a long way from having our own Anfield, but our website, social media and programme are examples of where we can compete. So we work to the highest possible standards to ensure our club is one players want to play for, and fans want to keep coming back to watch.

September has continued our perfect start to the season, with a win against London Tigers in the league. We now turn our attention to the Cup, where we hope to continue our winning ways.

We can't do this without your support, so thank you for coming tonight for what will be a challenging cup match against Raunds Town.

**Peter McCormack,**  
Chairman

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# CAPTAIN'S CORNER

It is a very exciting time for the club, we're hitting really good attendances, long may that continue and long may we continue building on those weekend and midweek crowds. For me as a captain, I know how much of a difference a good crowd makes for the lads and the extra 10% it gives them on the pitch.

Home matches are one thing but it would be great to start bringing fans to away fixtures, to support the lads away from McMullen Park. We have seen the odd person in a Real Bedfordshire shirt when we have been on our travels but to see a pocket of fans would really highlight a growing fan base for the club.

I know Peter and the team are working on building a local supporters club to encourage this. I have played

at a number of clubs in my career but this has been one of the most impressive in terms of how hard the management team has worked to support the team.

Tonight we entertain Raunds Town at McMullen Park in the Gladwish Challenge Trophy, which will hopefully be the start of a good cup run. As captain, I want to thank you for coming down and supporting us tonight, but I also want to encourage you to check our fixtures and try and join us for some away games.

**Luke Knight,  
Captain**



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# FROM THE PRESS ROOM

There's a real buzz around the ground tonight as Real Bedford embarks on their cup campaign under the lights here at McMullen Park.

With such an excellent start to the league already under their belt, I'm sure Rob Sinclair will be eyeing up this competition as not only a place to experiment with personnel and tactics but also another opportunity to win a trophy in Real Bedford's inaugural season.

It won't come easy, despite their recent defeats, Raunds opened their campaign with a win against Northampton ON Chenecks, proving that on their day they can compete with the best.

This fixture is sandwiched between two visits to London Tigers, and we can cer-

tainly expect the team this evening to have a new, fresher look, and include a handful of names we are yet to hear from. It's important that the quality of opposition isn't underestimated, and the star men who have provided so much glory in the league continue to perform in the cup.

Either way, there's lots for Real Bedford fans to get excited about in this cup competition and it starts tonight!

**Will Roberts,**  
**Real Bedford Commentator**



# FROM THE CLUBHOUSE

I've known Peter for almost 20 years and when he asked me to embark on his intriguing Football adventure with him, I decided to give up my full-time Private Jet Flight attendant career of 15 years to move into this crazy world of football.

Before all this came about, I had no real interest in football, then last season Peter took me along to watch Bedford FC (at the time) vs Northampton Silbey, and I loved it! It meant something personal to me and I knew I had found my team.

It's been a whirlwind, and who knew what would be involved with running a football club. With hard work and determination along with Peter and Tom, we seem to have lifted it off the ground.

Rob and his team have put together a fantastic group of players and not forgetting the volunteers who give up their time to help us. I could not have asked to

work with a nicer group of people. It's a real family community which I feel honoured to be a part of.

Each week I look forward to seeing the team come out and play along with the ever-growing local and international supporters behind us. The success and how far we have come, how hard everyone at the club and the players have worked, makes it all extremely worthwhile.

Do I miss flying? No, not at all, I miss sitting by the pool or beach now and again, but if we win the league, I'll make Pete reward us with that in the summer.

**Emma Firman,**  
COO



# PLAYER PROFILE

## TOM WOOD

**Full name:** Tom Wood

**Nickname:** Woody

**Date of birth:** 30 November 1994

**Place of birth:** Essex

**Position:** Central Midfield

**Previous clubs:** Cambridge City,  
St Ives, St Neots, Peterborough

**Favourite team:** Manchester United

**Favourite player:** Cristiano Ronaldo

**Most memorable footballing moment:** I took my boy Ronnie to watch Man U against Villarreal in the Champions League last season at old Trafford and Ronaldo scored a last second winner, amazing night.

**Career highlight:** FA cup game for St Neots at Coalville away, came from 3-0 down with 5 minutes to play to take it to penalties and win.

**Occupation:** Freight Forwarder

**Hobby:** Golf







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# BEDFORD RACK UP A FOUR GOAL WIN BEATING LETCHWORTH

Real Bedford wrapped up an unbeaten August with a comfortable 3 - 0 victory over Letchworth Garden City Eagles under the Tuesday Night Lights at McMullen Park.

Rob Sinclair's men were clinical from set pieces in front of a healthy home crowd to clinch the win and keep their position at the top of Spartan Midland's Division One.

It wasn't to be a walk in the park for Bedford, as demonstrated through the lack of goals and chances for either side in the game's opening quarter. The best opportunity came from Letchworth centre-half Adedoyin Sanni who forced a great save out of young goalkeeper Tyler McGregor, denying the away team the chance to snatch a scrappy opening goal.


It wasn't long after that before the deadlock was broken. A lofted pass from Ryan Coyle put Dan Walker away down the wing, and his

cross into the box hit Sanni's hand, which after deliberation from the officials was deemed a penalty. Walker stepped up and smashed the ball into the roof of the net, adding to an already impressive six-goal tally in his first three games.

Five minutes later, Jordan Brown found himself in a prime position to double the lead. An excellent cross from Andy Sinclair fell to Real Bedford's new star striker, who mistimed his shot after an awkward bounce sending it high into Bedfordshire skies.

Moments later, it was Letchworth down the other end, finding some space. Drescanu's delivery was met by the head of their skipper Sam James who failed to keep it down, causing little trouble for McGregor in goal.

Bedford found the net once more on the stroke of halftime. Andy Sinclair's corner kick found



Letchworth GCE 0 - 3 Real Bedford  
August 23rd 2022  
McMullen Park

# FOURTH CONSECUTIVE LETCWORTH GCE 3-0

the head of deputising captain Tom Wood who knocked it home and celebrated in style, his goal doubling Real Bedford's advantage as the whistle sounded for the break.

## SECOND HALF

In a similar fashion to the Burton game three days previous, Bedford struggled to find good form in the early parts of the second half. Still, the home team battled away, and it wasn't long before Jordan Brown took advantage of miscommunication in the Letchworth defence to unleash a shot that went over the bar.

Letchworth kept Bedford at bay for the next 15 minutes, producing some chances of their own through Shay Kelly and Harry Dollimore but were unable to find the net.

Dan Walker soon produced another opportunity for Bedford with a perfectly weighted ball to Brown. He danced past

Letchworth keeper Nathan Godfrey and squared the ball to Ben McGrath, who, similarly to Brown a few moments earlier, failed to keep it below the bar with the goal gaping.

It took 40 minutes of the second half before Bedford finally found their third, and it was a case of Deja Vu for the away team. This time it was Brown's slaloming run down the wing and consequent cross, which hit the arm of another Letchworth defender, leaving referee Rhys Davies no option but to point to the spot for a second time. Tom Hitchcock stepped up and, identical to Walker, smashed the ball past the Letchworth keeper. The home players mobbed Hitchcock as he opened his account for Real, ending any hope for Letchworth getting back into the game.





# 100% WIN STREAK CO TOUGH BATTLE AGAIN

While Real Bedford maintained their 100% record, the game was far from perfect and played on a pitch in desperate need of water. Despite having plenty of chances, the team went their longest without scoring a goal. The best came in the form of a long cross from Dan Walker, finding centre-half Tom Wood at the back post, who couldn't connect cleanly with the ball and saw his shot stray off target.

Things picked up just before the break in what was a lacklustre first half. London Tigers caught Bedford on the counter, leaving defenders scrambling, and a heavy challenge from Wood inside the Bedford box left referee Mark Baxter pointing to the spot. The penalty converted by Oyera Lewis gave the home team a narrow lead heading into the halftime break.

## SECOND HALF

From the whistle, London Tigers carried on their form from late in the first half, having most of the chances in the opening 10 minutes of the second. Tyler McGregor's several crucial saves and a vital goal-line clearance from James Duckett kept Bedford in the game. It looked like Real Bedford heads were starting to drop for the first time this season.

However, it only needed a spark of Walker magic to reignite the comeback for Rob Sinclair's men, which came just before the hour mark. Once again, off the back of a well-hit set piece, the ball fell to James Duckett on the edge of the penalty area, who whipped a ball towards the towering centre forward. Walker managed to get

London Tigers 1 - 2 Real Bedford  
September 3rd 2022  
Spratleys Meadow



# CONTINUES AFTER A 1ST LONDON TIGERS

a head to it and guide it into the back of the net, albeit momentarily, as the unusual structure of the goal meant the ball ricocheted back into play off a bar behind the goal. Many, including the officials, were confused over the legitimacy of the goal, but after deliberation, the referee pointed to the centre circle. Bedford was back level.

After the equaliser, Bedford took control of the game, with chances coming thick and fast. Rob Duckett, Jack Uttridge and Tom Hitchcock all came close to finding the back of the net, and it felt only a matter of time before Real would take the lead.

After a lengthy stoppage due to an injury to a Tigers player, Bedford finally struck gold. Replacement Kevin Owusu pounced

on a loose ball before finding Walker, who utilised Hitchcock in some lovely one-touch interplay. The ball found its way out wide to new signing Eddie Corbit, whose low-driven cross found an unmarked Dan Walker, who thumped it home from close range, completing the comeback.

The game was far from over; with all the stops in play, the referee added 12 minutes of additional time, which Bedford managed to see out despite good pressure from London Tigers.

Another three points were gained in a scrappy, hard-fought contest against tough opposition.



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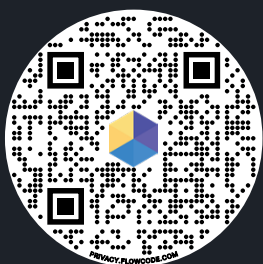


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It has been a mixed start for the ladies' team. After an impressive opening day win at Harlow Town, the team lost their first home fixture 2-0 to Luton Ladies, and followed this with a 4-3 defeat to Needham Market Women.

There was a lot to take from the opening games, and the defeats could have been different results on another day. We matched Luton for much of the game, but a missed penalty and four attempts hitting the woodwork proved it wouldn't be our day. Against Needham Market, we demonstrated that we are good going forward but lost the midfield battle putting too much pressure on the defence.

It has been great to work alongside the team at Real Bedford. Playing our home games at McMullen Park will make a big difference to the team. The pitch is

in excellent condition, and the club has the facilities to support our team and the fans who come to watch.

Now we are focused on our next match away against AFC Sudbury Women. We have put the results against Luton and Needham Market behind us and will look to take another three points at home. We know we have the team to compete in the league, and our goal is to win it.

**Next Fixture:**

Bedford Ladies & Girls v  
AFC Sudbury Women

Sunday 16th September, 2pm  
McMullen Park



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# SPARTAN SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE 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)	
SAT 10	3:00PM	A	London Tigers (Division One Cup)	
SAT 17	3:00PM	H	Holmer Green	
TUE 20	7:45PM	H	Moulton FC	
SAT 24	3:00PM	A	Amersham Town	
OCTOBER				
SAT 1	3:00PM	A	Lutterworth Athletic	
TUE 4	7:45PM	A	Raunds Town	
SAT 8	3:00PM	H	Winslow United	
SAT 15	3:00PM	H	Rugby Borough	
TUE 18	7:45PM	A	Letchworth Garden City Eagles	
SAT 22	3:00PM	A	Northampton Sileby Rangers	
SAT 29	3:00PM	A	THE GLADWISH CHALLENGE TROPHY Second Round	
NOVEMBER				
SAT 5	3:00PM	H	Raunds Town	
SAT 12	3:00PM	A	Thame United Reserve	
TUE 15	7:45PM	A	Moulton FC	
SAT 19	3:00PM	H	Eaton Socon	
SAT 26	3:00PM	H	London Tigers	
DECEMBER				
SAT 3	3:00PM	H	Northampton ON Chenecks	
SAT 10	3:00PM	A	Wellingborough Whitworth	
SAT 17	3:00PM	H	Amersham Town	
TUE 27	7:45PM	A	Amphill Town	
JANUARY				
MON 2	3:00PM	H	Langford	
SAT 14	3:00PM	H	Northampton Sileby Rangers	
WED 21	7:45PM	A	Eaton Socon	
SAT 28	3:00PM	H	Wellingborough Whitworth	
FEBRUARY				
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	



# THE AWAY TEAM

Raunds Town was founded in 1946. There had been other teams with “Raunds” in the title as long ago as 1896–97, but at a meeting in the town’s Temperance Hall in May 1946 a new amalgamated club was formed. The club is nicknamed “The Shopmates” in reference to the local boot and shoe industry, which was largely workshop-based.

In 1950 the Shopmates joined the United Counties League (formerly the Northamptonshire League), playing in the Second Division. They did not set the league on fire, and after switching between the divisions settled in Division One after the former first division was redesignated the Premier Division.

A season in Division Two in 1979–80 seemed to wake them up: after the

division was disbanded at the end of that season, the Shopmates returned to Division One and were promoted as champions in 1982–83. Kiln Park, home of Raunds Town Raunds Town embarked upon an ambitious programme. Having played at Greenhouse Field for two years at the start, they moved to The Berristers for thirty-three seasons and in 1991 they moved to Kiln Park. The stadium adjacent to the A45 was designed to host football at a higher level.

At the end of the 2020–21 season the club were transferred to Division One of the Spartan South Midlands League.

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# MATCHDAY SQUAD



V



## REAL BEDFORD

TYLER **MCGREGOR**  
VLADISLAV **HOLOVAN**  
ROB **DUCKET**  
JAMES **DUCKET**  
ANDY **SINCLAIR**  
JACK **UTTRIDGE**  
TOM **WOOD**  
BEN **WALSH**  
LUKE **KNIGHT (C)**  
BEN **MCGRATH**  
STANLEY **AYRE**  
TYRELLE **MCLEOD BENTLEY**  
JAMIE **SYLVESTER**  
HARRY **MURRAY**  
EDDIE **CORBITT**  
MATT **CLIFFORD**  
FLYNN **BAKER-BOND**  
DAN **WALKER**  
TOM **HITCHCOCK**  
KEVIN **OWUSU**

MANAGER: ROB **SINCLAIR**  
ASSISTANT MANAGER: MARK **DUCKET**  
GOALKEEPING COACH: LOUIE **O'NEILL**  
HEAD SPORTS THERAPIST: LOTTIE **BURTON**  
KITMAN: JON **DARCEY**

## RAUNDS TOWN FC

GEORGE **ANTHONY**  
MIHAIL **BADULEANU**  
ZONDIWE **CHUNGA**  
ASHLEY **HENRY-BROWN**  
RIO **HENRY**  
BENN **KIRKHAM**  
DEAN **MCBRIDE**  
ANTONIO **RICCIARDI**  
SHELDON **WASHINGTON**  
CHARLIE **WILSON**  
COREY **BEATTIE**  
HENRY **LANGLEY**  
AARON **RUSCOE**  
RORKE **THOMPSON**

MANAGER: LAURENCE **REVELL**