

THE WHITE PAPER

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



VS RAUNDS TOWN

SAT 5TH NOV '22
KICK OFF: 3:00 PM
ISSUE #8 // £2

#8





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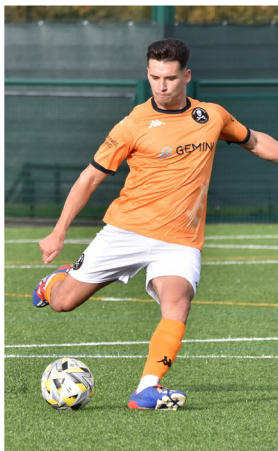
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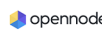
BEDFORD PARK RANGERS

CHAIR: JAY ALLISON



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FROM THE DRESSING ROOM

Firstly I'd like to give a warm welcome to the Raunds Town directors, management, players and supporters.

Today is our third fixture against Raunds in two months. Our first two meetings ended with two positive results, and the boys are excited for today and looking to make it three out of three.

We recently suffered our first defeat in the league against Rugby Borough, which was disappointing, but we took a lot of positives from the game. It's never nice to lose a game of football, but the character the boys have shown since has been incredible. After the defeat, I asked the boys to show a strong and positive mindset, and they've done that by winning all three games since.

The togetherness this whole football club is showing is remarkable. It starts from

the top with Pete, and his passion filters through to everyone else. I know all the staff and players feel Pete's love for the town, and we are now seeing the fanbase grow and create a real community within Bedford.

Lastly, I want to talk about you, the fans. We have three really important home fixtures this month, starting today against Raunds Town and later in the month against Eaton Socon and London Tigers. You have made a huge difference this season cheering on the boys. So make sure you keep coming down, bring an extra supporter with you and let's keep growing this fanbase, and we will do everything in our power to give you a team you can be proud to support.

Rob Sinclair,
Manager



FROM THE BOARDROOM

We recently suffered our first defeat in the league at home to Rugby Borough, bringing an end to our 100% record. I can't take anything away from Rugby, it was a solid and disciplined performance, and I expect them to be a challenger for the league.

I took the loss personally and spent a lot of time that week thinking about what I did wrong, which contributed to the defeat. You might think this sounds crazy, as once the game starts, only the players and the management team can affect the result; I'm not out there kicking the ball and am not involved in strategy or substitutions. As Chairman, my role is to ensure that my manager Rob Sinclair and his team have everything they need to prepare for bringing home three points on match day. I have to ensure they have high-quality training facilities, the best kit and equipment, a core following of fans to support them, and much more.

It is difficult for me to impact individual games. My job is more of an aggregate job over the season. So while Rob is only ever thinking about the next match and the next three points, I am thinking about the next season and how we can challenge for promotion. If this season is successful and we get promoted, come Monday morning, I will sit down with Rob knowing everything is in

place for him for next season to go again.

After buying the club, I spent a lot of time looking at success stories in sports, and I was particularly inspired by the story of Team Sky and their Tour De France strategy. In the eight years from 2012, they won the title seven times, only losing the 2014 title when Chris Froome crashed out of the race. How did they become so dominant through this period when previously the UK had never produced a Tour De France winner?

Their success has been largely attributed to the strategy of marginal gains by the team's Performance Director, Sir David Brailsford. In his words, "if you break down everything you could think of that goes into riding a bike, and then improve it by 1%, you will get a significant increase when you put them all together. They're tiny things, but if you clump them together, it can be the difference between winning and losing."

So how is this relevant to a tier 10 football club with part-time players and management? It is not a fully executed strategy yet, but it is a mindset for managing the club. We strive for perfection at every level, even with the smallest details. Consider the programme you are reading right now. It takes a considerable effort to produce a high-quality programme: it requires original



content, professional photographs and design, and we use a high-quality printer. It takes around 40 accumulative hours from different people to produce something which maybe 50-100 people will read. Why do all this work? Well, the programme's quality delivers value to the sponsors, which might contribute to them renewing next season. It gives a good impression to the fans who might return to the next home game. It might support engagement with our international supporters who might buy more merchandise. All these marginal differences make a difference to our bottom line, which allows us to develop the infrastructure.

It isn't just the programme. It is our website, our match day experience, our training facilities, live-streaming the games, our training kit, our merchandise, our brand, our social media, our data and analysis... an endless list of things we can strive for perfection with. It is why I am up at 5.30am to write this programme because, after this, I am meeting Emma to plan the match day, followed by a meeting with Tom to review our new PA system.

The team, including Rob and his staff, are a winning machine, and we set out to give them everything they need to do this. I know they all see and support my vision and do everything to

help deliver it. But this is now circular, and I see how hard they work, making me work harder to support them further.

So why share this? You might think we are giving away our strategy to other teams, but the great thing about non-league football is that the clubs want to help each other. I travelled to Luttermouth and Rugby Borough only this week to visit their facilities. The team behind both clubs were welcoming and transparent in how they built such incredible facilities. On Sunday, the ladies played Hashtag United, and after the game, I spent an hour with their team, learning how they have built success with their women.

Running a non-league team is hard; there is always so much to do with a limited budget, but football is important to a local community. From kids to the senior teams, football is the week's highlight for many. We want to be successful with Bedford, but we want everyone to be successful because success will open more doors for people to play football.

**Peter McCormack,
Chairman**

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CAPTAIN'S CORNER

I've previously talked about the togetherness of the dressing room and how important it is in building a winning mentality. This week, I want to take this a little further and discuss how the team is a family.

The dressing room can be a tough place. On match day, we are all so focused on winning that emotions can run high, but we let ourselves relax a little more during the rest of the week and keep an eye on each other as players.

It is essential that all the boys feel part of this family, and when Rob pulled together this team, it was a mixture of lads who had played together before and some new faces. We gelled quickly, and when new faces arrive, we do everything

to make them feel welcome and one of us.

The team's togetherness ensures that every player will put themselves on the line for each other come match day. Only 11 players can start the game, but whether they are selected, on the bench or injured, all the lads know the team comes first and want the best for each other.

We're a third of the way through the season now, and this family has only lost one game in the league. As the cold winter months hit and the weather changes, this family of players will fight as one to win every match.

**Luke Knight,
Captain**

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HASH

WE'VE GOT THE

CASH

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FROM THE CLUBHOUSE

There is much more to a match day than opening the gates and unlocking the doors to the clubhouse. We have to arrange the programmes, order the food, stock the bar, prep the merch, pay the refs, organise the mascots, and so much more.

I usually start my week nagging our amazing volunteers in our WhatsApp group to see who can give up their free time. So I would like to thank our regulars Karen, Lorraine, Alex, Leah, Jacek, Jim, Wendy and Seb. They come down every week, work hard and make a massive difference to the club. We are creating a fantastic community, which we couldn't do without their help.

Volunteers are essential to the operations of a football club, so if you are interested in helping out, please come and speak to me and I'll add you to the group.

I would also like to welcome our Real Bedford Slovakia Supporters Club, who have flown over for the weekend to attend the Bitcoin meetup, watch the game and visit Bedford. It is incredible to see

people from other countries get behind our project and come to Bedford to watch a game.

Lastly, I attended the Amsterdam Bitcoin Conference with Peter a few weeks ago, and the craziest thing was seeing so many people wearing our merchandise. After speaking to a good few, I was amazed by how many follow our team, know the players' names, and ask questions about them. Someone asked who my favourite player is, and after getting to know them on and off the pitch, I told them I didn't have a favourite. How could I? They're all equally fantastic.

Seeing the team's growth abroad makes all our hard work worthwhile, knowing it has a real impact. Of course, thanks to Rob, Mark and the team for smashing it week after week, winning so many games and making our international supporters proud.

Emma Firman,
COO



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PLAYER PROFILE

Full name: Dan Walker

Nickname: Walks

Date of birth: 27th April 1990

Place of birth: Milton Keynes

Previous clubs: Luton Town, Hereford, Aldershot, Braintree, Billericay.

Favourite team: Manchester United.

Favourite player: Growing up it was Beckham and Giggs, now it's Messi and Tom Hinchcock.

Most memorable footballing moment: Michael Owen's solo goal during the 1998 World Cup vs Argentina.

Career highlight: Signing my first professional contract with Luton Town.

Occupation: Recruitment

Hobby: Catching pigeons.





RUGBY BOROUGH ENDS WINNING START TO THE S

A disciplined performance from Rugby Borough brought Real Bedford's 100% record to an end at McMullen Park, winning 2 - 1.

Real Bedford welcomed Rugby Borough to McMullen Park on Saturday, looking to extend their winning run to 12, but a well-organised Borough defence held on to win 2 - 1.

The away team arrived confident of an upset on the back of five straight wins and took the lead within two minutes through Adam Shaw. Captain Sebastian Castleton caught James Duckett in possession, the ball falling to striker Halim Halim who put Shaw clean of the Bedford defence, showing composure to bury the ball in the bottom right-hand corner beyond Tyler McGregor.

The early goal allowed Borough to execute a game plan designed to frustrate the Bedford attack while hitting back on the break. The strategy worked for the first half as they defended wave after wave of Bedford attack while threatening to double their

lead on multiple occasions.

Bedford retained most of the possession through the first half but could not find the back of the net. On 25 minutes, Matty Clifford nearly found an equaliser with a free-kick. His curling left-foot shot deflected off the Borough wall, hitting the inside of the post but bouncing frustratingly past the oncoming Eddie Corbit. The Rugby defence cleared the ball, only for Luke Knight to whip another cross into the box. Sam Chalkley saved Hitchcock's header well, rebounding to James Duckett, who headed the ball back onto the bar.

Despite further pressure from Bedford, Borough should have scored next just before the halftime break. Luke Knight lost possession of the ball under pressure from Migahey, who squared the ball to Adam Shaw, but with the goal open, Shaw somehow managed to rattle the bar, the ball falling back to Migahey, who had his shot cleared off the line by Knight.



Real Bedford 1 - 2 Rugby Borough
15th October 2022
McMullen Park

REAL BEDFORD'S SEASON

SECOND HALF

While the second half played out much the same as the first, Rugby Borough had the first chance to net again. Shaw, a menace to the Bedford defence all afternoon, took possession of the ball on the edge of the box, stayed on his feet under pressure from Clifford and broke clear only to be thwarted by McGregor.

Bedford nearly levelled the game on 50 minutes. This time the woodwork would deny Jordan Brown. Picking the ball up on the right-hand side of the box, he took the ball past the Borough defence and unleashed a wicked shot from a tight angle, only to see the ball head behind off the post.

With Bedford piling on the pressure, it was Rugby who scored next. Matty Clifford conceded a foul on the edge of the box close to the byline. The free-kick floated to the back stick, where Max Proudlock won the header, the ball dropping to his feet which he stabbed home.

Bedford did not give up on the result and finally found the net in the 93rd minute. A clever through ball from Tom Hitchcock found Jordan Brown behind the Borough defence. Brown rounded the keeper and finished from a tight angle, a deserved goal for the striker who had worked hard all afternoon.

Deep in injury time, Bedford pushed for an equaliser, and Knight thought he had equalised in the 95th minute. With Brown fouled just outside the box, Knight's low shot was well saved by Chalkley in goal.

The game ended with Borough winning 2 - 1, a solid win for a well-executed game plan. The away team's run, raising their profile and positioning themselves as title contenders.

RBFC: McGregor, R. Duckett (Gordon, 50'), Owusu, J. Duckett, Wood, Clifford, Corbit (Sinclair, 80'), Knight ©, Brown, Hitchcock, Culley (McGrath 80').

Unused Substitutes: McLeod-Bentley, Uttridge.



REAL BEDFORD RETURN AGAINST LETCHWORTH

Bedford bounced back in style with another 3 points away from home under the Tuesday Night Lights in Letchworth. A goal either side of halftime capped off a solid and dominant performance from Rob Sinclair's men against a well-oiled Letchworth Garden City Eagles.

Following Saturday's first league defeat against Rugby Borough, Real Bedford was looking to send a message to the rest of the league in what could have been a tricky game in Letchworth.

The home team has had a mixed season but wins against Winslow and Moulton coupled with close defeats to Amersham and Chenecks, demonstrate that the team is a threat to anyone in the league.


The first half was a dominant performance by Real Bedford, creating almost all the chances as they put sustained pressure on the Letchworth defence. Jordan Brown twice had shots fade across the face of the goal, and a header at the back post from Tom Hitchcock was inches away from creating the opening goal.

New signing Claston Gordon made his full debut for the away side and nearly created the opening goal. A constant threat on the right, he floated a perfect ball into the box for Brown, who lost sight of the ball in the floodlights and headed back across the goal when he appeared sure to score.

Brown made amends shortly after, finally finding the net in the 35th minute. Good work in the middle of the park from the ever-impressive Corbit caught Letchworth napping. Taking possession of the ball, he threaded it through the middle to Hitchcock, who put Brown clean through. One-on-one with the keeper, he made no mistake planting the ball comfortably in the bottom right-hand corner for his 11th goal of the season. It was a deserved goal and gave the away side a slender lead at half-time.

SECOND HALF

Real Bedford came out for the second half with a similar intensity to the first; however, the home side returned to the pitch, demonstrating their intention to cause an upset. Letchworth played some excellent football in the middle but



Letchworth GCE 0 - 2 Real Bedford
18th October 2022
Pixmore Fields

ON TO WINNING FORM H GARDEN CITY EAGLES

could not create clear-cut chances.

Bedford continued to create chances themselves, with Jordan Brown a constant threat. Corbit nearly doubled the lead, with Brown pivotal in the move. The striker crossed a teasing ball towards Tom Hitchcock, who couldn't find the right connection. A poor Letchworth clearance landed at the feet of Corbit, and the teenage midfielder let off a rocket of a right foot which whistled just over the bar.

The same three players linked up for the next Bedford opportunity; this time, it was Corbit to deliver the cross, which Hitchcock controlled with a header laying it off to Brown, whose shot just strayed off target.

As Bedford looked to close the game out, Rob Sinclair deployed Dan Walker from the bench, Bedford's leading goal scorer returning from the treatment table to the pleasure of the away fans. Walker's impact was immediate, his size and pace causing a problem for the Letchworth defence, and he was instrumental in the second goal, which put the game out of reach for the home side. A darting run behind the Letchworth

defence from Brown's lobbed ball allowed Walker to place an exquisite cross into the box, which was met by Eddie Corbit a yard from goal. Welcome back, Dan Walker!

His night was far from over, and Bedford nearly scored again straight from the kick-off. James Duckett headed the ball through to Brown, who was tripped in the box by Letchworth skipper Sanni leaving the referee no choice but to point to the spot. Walker raced over to collect the ball, but his penalty attempt went over the bar preventing him from adding to his 11-goal tally in the league and leaving the score line at 2-0.

The final chance of the game fell to an unlikely candidate, and it was Brown once again involved. He sent a cross towards wing-back Matt Clifford from the byline, but the left-back playing on the wing tonight saw his shot kiss the bar on its way over.

RBFC: McGregor, Gordon (Walker, 77'), Clifford, J. Duckett, Wood, Uttridge, Corbit (McGrath, 85'), Knight ©, Brown, Hitchcock (Sinclair, 83'), Owusu (McLeod-Bentley, 87').

Unused Substitutes: Culley.



REAL BEDFORD OPEN A WITH A 2 - 1 WIN AWAY

Real Bedford again showed character on the road to complete another sound victory against Moulton, this time at Brunting Road. A goal either side of half-time ensured the win for The Pirates, completing the double over 7th placed Moulton having thrashed them 5-0 at McMullen Park a month earlier.

After a stop-start opening 15 minutes in which the referee spoke to both teams, Moulton's George Wingrove had the first chance to open the scoring. Wingrove pounced on a loose ball from Dan Walker and drove towards the edge of the box before unleashing a shot from range, only for it to whistle over the bar, causing no problems for Real Bedford keeper Tyler McGregor.

The referee continued to dominate the game, and Real Bedford found themselves temporarily down to 10 men, with Tom Wood sent to the sin bin after politely asking the referee about a questionable offside decision.

Luke Knight shifted into the middle of the back three, providing cover for Wood as Moulton attempted to take advantage of the additional player, and it wasn't long before they took the lead. A superb pass down the line from Moulton's replacement Roberts found Joey Evans in space. Running into the box, he sidestepped James Ducket and shot the ball through McGregor's legs. Claston Gorden, who re-

cently signed for Bedford from Moulton, cleared the ball on the line, only for the ball to rebound into the net off the back of McGregor. One for the Spartan Dubious Goals Committee.

While Moulton dominated the opening 40 minutes, with Tom Wood returning to the action, the Pirates clicked into gear, becoming more comfortable with the 4G pitch and creating several opportunities to level the game before the half-time whistle. First, Harry Murray tested the goal; Gordon, a constant threat to Moulton, skipped round two tackles before squaring the ball to Eddie Corbit, who found Murray in the box, and the makeshift winger cut towards goal but shot just wide.

Next up, Jordan Brown rattled the bar with a half-volley from the resulting corner, with the striker unlucky not to add to his tally for the season. As the clock ticked into the red, Real Bedford had one last attack. James Ducket picked up the ball from Corbit and placed a clever ball to Jim Burnside at the edge of the box. The returning striker played a one-two with Dan Walker, beating the Moulton defence and toe-poked the ball in the bottom right-hand corner of the goal, sending the teams in level at half-time.



Moulton FC 1 - 2 Real Bedford
22nd October 2022
Brunting Road

A 14 POINT LEAD BY AT MOULTON FC

SECOND HALF

Bedford dominated the second half, and Moulton will consider themselves lucky to only lose by one goal. By controlling play and possession, The Pirates were quickly in the lead after a wonder strike from Harry Murray. Luke Knight picked up a loose ball in midfield and found James Duckett, and the defender squared the ball to Murray, who beat the keeper with a thunderbolt from 25 yards, opening his account for Bedford.

Now in the driving seat, Real Bedford's next chance came just after the hour mark; this time Jordan Brown the creator. Moulton had recognised the threat from Brown and had targeted him all afternoon on and off the ball. Brown continued to forage away and Bedford nearly made it three on 65 minutes when he played the ball to Corbit, who crossed into the box to Burnside, but his header failed to test the goalkeeper.

Next, it was the turn of Claston Gordon to have a go from range, testing his former teammate Felipe Mederios in goal. Running rings around the Moulton defence, he found space, and his knuckleball shot required an instinctive parry from the keeper to prevent Bedford from increasing their lead.

The day didn't get any easier for Moulton FC as the referee presented Jack Mullally with a second yellow

card and an early shower. Unable to cope with Jordan Brown's pace, the Moulton midfielder kicked out at Brown, giving the referee no choice but to show him a deserved second yellow card.

With 20 minutes to play and the rain falling, Bedford continued to pepper the Moulton goal. Jordan Brown had the next chance; latching onto a header from Burnside, he entered the box, but his chip was well saved by Mederios. Soon after, Burnside nearly scored again, but his shot was just wide of the post. Luke Knight followed this with a trademark 25-yard free-kick, his effort forcing a great save from the impressive Mederios, Moulton's best player on the day.

Bedford's failure to close out the game invited Moulton to push for an equaliser, and a late flurry of chances put the pressure on the league leaders. The home side will perhaps consider themselves unlucky not to have secured a point when McGregor, once again, pulled off an outstanding injury-time save to ensure the win for Bedford and maintain their 100% record on the road.

RBFC: McGregor, Murray (McLeod-Bentley 86'), Gordon, Duckett, Wood, Uttridge, Corbit, Knight ©, Brown, Walker (McGrath 78') Burnside.

Unused Subs: Culley, Baker-Bond.



REAL BEDFORD BEAT AYLESBURY ADVANCE TO THE NEXT ROUND

Bedford had a chance to test themselves against Step 5 Aylesbury Vale Dynamos in the Gladwish Trophy this weekend, and a 1-0 away win demonstrated the team's progress under Rob Sinclair.

Real Bedford arrived in Aylesbury on Saturday afternoon, hoping to continue their league form against higher-level opposition. While Aylesbury sits in the bottom half of the Spartan League Premier Division, they proved to be a tricky opponent.


Bedford were missing several players to injury and illness, only able to field three substitutes. Jordan Brown rested on the bench while Tom Hitchcock, Matt Clifford and Kevin Owusu returned to the starting lineup.

Bedford dominated the first half and would have been disappointed to only

lead by one goal at the half-time break. Yet while Bedford held most of the possession, Aylesbury were a threat, especially down the left wing, creating several problems for the Bedford defence without creating many clear chances.

Bedford took the lead after 12 minutes, which proved to be the game's deciding moment. Claston Gordon followed his excellent match against Moulton with another stand-out performance and made the opening goal for Tom Hitchcock. Breaking through the Aylesbury defence on the right, he squared the ball to Hitchy, who added to his tally for the season with a calm finish into the bottom right-hand corner.

The Pirates should have doubled their lead with an almost identical move at the midway point of the half, but this time Hitchcock's shot went over the bar. Jim



Aylesbury Vale Dynamos 0 - 1 Real Bedford
29th October 2022
The Greenfleets Stadium

AYLESBURY VALE DYNAMOS TO END OF THE GLADWISH TROPHY

Burnside will also have been disappointed not to have made it 2 - 0, latching onto a Dan Walker cross only to see his header go just wide.

SECOND HALF

The second half followed a similar pattern, with Bedford dominating possession and Aylesbury threatening to equalise on the break.

Dan Walker imposed himself more on the game after the break and nearly made it 2 - 0. Beating the Dynamos defence on the left, he cut in and let fly with a wicked shot, which curled past the goalie, coming back off the post.

As the game ticked on, Aylesbury came more into the game and threatened to equalise several times. Still, Tyler McGregor put in a man-of-the-match perfor-

mance, adding more impressive saves to his ever-growing collection.

Chances fell to both teams in the final five minutes. Firstly, Bedford nearly killed the game off when Jordan Brown broke free of the defence, but his shot over the goalkeeper was cleared as it raced towards the line. Aylesbury also had the chance to equalise in the last minute, but with the goal glaring shot wide.

Bedford held on through a nery injury time to knock out the Step 5 side and head into the draw for the next round.

RBFC: McGregor, Gordon, Owusu (McLeod-Bentley, 82'), Duckett, Uttridge, Clifford, Corbit, Knight ©, Walker, Hitchcock, Burnside (Brown, 69').

Unused Subs: Ayre

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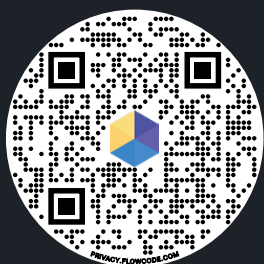
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SPARTAN SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE

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	
SAT 19	3:00PM	H	Eaton Socon	
SAT 26	3:00PM	H	London Tigers	
DECEMBER				
SAT 3	2:00PM	A	Flitwick Town First (Gladwish Challenge Trophy)	
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 7	3:00PM	A	Northampton Sileby Rangers	
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	

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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.

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. The Shopmates' on-field performance matched this munificence. In 1992-93 they won at Northwich Victoria 2-0 to eliminate their hosts from the FA Cup in the Second Qualifying Round, thus far the only time a UCL club has eliminated Conference opposition from the competition. In 1994-95 the Shopmates lost the FA Vase semi-final against Arlesey Town having led 3-0 after the first (home) leg. The following season they were eliminated in the quarter-final by Bristol club Mangotsfield United. In 2006-07 the Shopmates eliminated Isthmian League side Enfield from the FA Cup by way of a 2-1 away win, gaining revenge for a reverse in the same competition at their hands eight seasons before.

Meanwhile, in the United Counties League, the leadership of manager Keith Burt led an assault on the top of the table. Having lost out on the championship on goal difference in 1994-95, Raunds seized the title the following season. They were duly promoted to the Southern League, where they took their place in the Midland Division. However, they suffered from their geographical location close to the boundary between the divisions and in 1998-99, the Shopmates were shifted to the Southern Division, which was renamed the Eastern Division the following season. This had financial implications, not least the cost of travelling, and for two seasons Raunds Town struggled. Manager Keith Burt resigned, and the club had little option but to apply for re-admission to the United

Counties League at the end of 1999-2000.

In the 2012-13 season, Raunds Town are playing in the United Counties Football League Division One, led by manager Stuart Brown and Russ Baxter.

2013-14 saw the arrival of co-managers James Le Masurier and Scott Manning, with intention of a 5 year rebuild. 2014 - 15 saw only Jim as the manager. Raunds persistently remained in the top half of the league with 2017-18 as being the most successful position. However, after seeing promotion to the UCL being eluded, Jim decided to stand down and most of the players decided to go elsewhere.

2021- 2022 saw Craig Hayward at the helm to steer Raunds away from the relegation zone in their first season on the Spartan League. The 2022 now see Lawrence Trelvel in charge.

Short History if required:

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

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**
STANLEY **AYRE**
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**

RAUNDS TOWN

AARON **ADDY**
GEORGE **ANTHONY**
COREY **BEATTIE**
CAMERON **HARRIS**
REECE **ELLIS IRWIN**
TYRONE **KONDE**
DEAN **MCBRIDE**
JAMIE **PICKFORD**
KURTIS **RANDALL**
RIO **THOMPSON**
SHELDON **WASHINGTON**
MIHAIL **BADULEANU**
RICHARD **BOAH**
JOE **FREEMAN**
ASHLEY **HENRY-BROWN**
ANTONIO **RICCIARDI**

JOINT MANAGER: DEAN **MCBRIDE**
JOINT MANAGER: LUKE **ARIDEGBE**

MANAGER: ROB **SINCLAIR**
ASSISTANT MANAGER: MARK **DUCKET**
GOALKEEPING COACH: IAN **BROWN**
HEAD SPORTS THERAPIST: LOTTIE **BURTON**
KITMAN: JON **D'ARCY**