

Bedfordshire County **Football League**



Season 2009-10

News Bulletin Number 27



The Return Of Brian Buck and Travellers Tale

158th game of the season. (Match 9,581) Thursday 17th December 2009. Bedfordshire County League 5 Luton Sunday League 1 (Beds FA Inter League Centenary Trophy Semi Final) (Played at Cranfield United) att 10 approx. If the weather at Spurs on the previous night was awful then it was even worse here this evening. It was even colder and there was a threat of snow in the air. Even worse there was a strong northerly icy wind blowing. Despite all this the pitch passed a morning pitch inspection and that held good right through the game. However the Luton Sunday League were not keen to travel and they pointed out that it was snowing there. But as the Crawley Road pitch was playable they had to come. Although I've given the attendance as about 10 there were only four people who watched the match out in the cold in its entirety. Leroy Odds parents, Beds County League Press & Media Secretary Peter Francis and myself. Leroy's parents don't get to see him too much these days as he drove down from Newcastle to play in this match. At the time of writing, some three weeks later, I don't know if he has got home yet! However on 3 minutes it seemed that it was their son who opened the scoring, but the goal was eventually credited to Dean Warren. On 6 minutes one of the Beds County League management duo, Kevin Hallett, offered the ref some gloves, which he gratefully accepted. Warren doubled the lead on 18 minutes. Around about this time Peter told me that although the County League's number 6 & 7 both play for Ickwell & Old Warden they don't actually know each other! The 7 signed for the club at the start of the season but had never played a game for them! Warren completed his hattrick on 25 minutes and then Leroy finally scored from the spot after a foul on 49 minutes. Luton Sunday League pulled a goal back on 78 minutes but Warren got the last goal of the game four minutes later. Then came the getting home problem. Despite Peter's daughter frequently ringing him up to tell him that it was snowing in Sandy it wasn't in Cranfield which is why the game finished. But as I travelled back through Sandy I soon confirmed that it was snowing here and the rest of my journey home was a real nightmare!

Action Review From Saturday January 16th 2010

Bedfordshire FA Senior Trophy Third Round

Dunton's hopes of Bedfordshire FA Senior Trophy glory are over for another season after they were beaten 3-1 at AFC Kempston Rovers, Lawrence Bosher giving them

heart by placing them into the lead after 25 minutes but The Rovers were level by the break and with two second half strikes run out comfortable winners by the final whistle.

AFC Kempston Town's scheduled tie with Potton United at the same venue fell victim to a waterlogged pitch and will now go ahead next Saturday January 23rd, Kick Off 1.30pm.

Premier Division supported by Sportsform

League Table at January 16th 2010

14 Teams	Games Played	Games Won	Games Drawn	Games Lost	Goals For	Goals Against	Goal Difference	Points
Blunham	14	11	1	2	46	22	+24	34
Ickwell & Old Warden	13	9	0	4	31	26	+5	27
Caldecote	13	7	2	4	29	16	+13	23
Oakley Sports	10	7	0	3	24	14	+10	21
Renhold United	14	5	5	4	30	32	-2	20
Biggleswade United Reserves	12	6	1	5	24	24	+0	19
Wilshamstead	11	5	3	3	30	20	+10	18
AFC Kempston Town	10	5	1	4	26	16	+10	16
Campton	13	5	0	8	22	31	-9	15
Sharnbrook	12	4	2	6	19	25	-6	14
Woburn	12	4	1	7	22	27	-5	13
Dunton	13	3	1	9	14	31	-17	10
Southill Alexander	11	2	2	7	20	28	-8	8
Westoning Recreation Club [Saturday]	12	2	1	9	22	47	-25	7

With just three of the scheduled six games going ahead it proved to be a good day for the visitors with all three recording victories. At Harvey Close, league leaders Blunham were to take their winning ways to nine games and end hosts Caldecote's seven game unbeaten run by coming from behind to win 2-1. Chris Winder giving the home side the lead on 25 minutes before a brace of goals from Andy Smith in the 50th and 65th minutes ensured Blunham remain seven points clear at the head of the standings after second place Ickwell & Old Warden won 4-2 at Campton.

Ickwell & Old Warden, with a goal from Anup Kalyan, were to lead the game 1-0 at half-time. Andrew Vallom then doubled the lead 10 minutes into the new period with

a free kick from 30 yards out, before Gary Fil took them three goals clear in the 65th minute. The home supporters were then given hope that the great escape might just be on the cards when both Andrew Hayday and Gary Gibson struck within a minute of each other to bring the deficit back to a single goal. Alas for them it was not to be when eight minutes from time home goalkeeper Gary Cullerton made a right howler to gift Nick Cooper and Ickwell a fourth goal to take them to their sixth away win on the bounce and now leave the home side with the worrying statistic of having lost all of their last four home games.

Elsewhere, Woburn came up with their first win on the road this season since their opening day victory at Southill Alexander to take all three points on offer in a 4-2 win at Renhold United. Martin Holland shooting the Safari Boys ahead on 20 minutes but United with goals from Chris Huckle and Paul McKeaveney, led 2-1 until Chris Allam levelled matters just a minute from the break. Woburn going on to win the game with strikes from Steve Murray on 75 minutes and Lewis Murray 10 minutes later, a result that now lifts them out of the bottom three of the league standings at the expense of Dunton.

Division One

Just two games were to survive the weather in Division One, Meltis Albion netting a 4-1 home victory over Kempston at Miller Road to leapfrog them above their victims and the non-playing Marston Social into fourth spot in the league table. The day was not to start that well for The Albion when regular goalkeeper Dale Hamilton, who was driving up from Swindon, telephoned in to say his car had broken down just outside Oxford and that he would be an absentee, thus necessitating an appearance between the posts for Luke Pell. It seemed to matter little as Salvatore Ventrigrria shot them in front in the 8th minute then Darren Ashpole doubled the advantage 25 minutes into the contest.

Ventrigrria was then to see Kempston goalkeeper Tom Buck make a brilliant save to keep out his penalty before Daniel Wells broke Kempston hearts with a third goal just a minute from the break. Ventrigrria perhaps then feeling a little better on the hour mark, when Buck came up with his second penalty save of the game to prevent Charlie Betts taking the scoreline up to 4-0. Home nerves then jangled for a while when Alex Goosby reduced the arrears to 3-1 in the 73rd minute until Tom Hughes ensured it would be The Albion's day with goal number four just three minutes from time.

Holding onto third spot in the league table are Caldecote Reserves who needed a last minute equalizer to earn a point from a 2-2 draw at Blunham Reserves. All started well enough for the visitors when Roy Anderson shot them ahead on the half-hour mark, but a goal from Garth Thomas five minutes from the interval and a strike from Mark Davidson 10 minutes from time looked to have sealed the points for the home side until in the 89th minute Aiden Jones levelled matters to earn the point to keep his side above Meltis Albion in the league standings on goal difference.

Division One League Table at 16th January 2010

16 Teams	Games Played	Games Won	Games Drawn	Games Lost	Goals For	Goals Against	Goal Difference	Points
Flitwick Town	16	11	1	4	35	22	+13	34
Leighton United	15	10	2	3	44	22	+22	32
Caldecote Reserves	15	9	2	4	41	26	+15	29
Meltis Albion	15	9	2	4	33	23	+10	29
Marston Social	15	8	3	4	34	24	+10	27
Kempston	15	9	0	6	41	37	+4	27
FC Meppershall	16	7	2	7	46	44	+2	23
Blunham Reserves	17	6	4	7	27	37	-10	22
Bedford Sports Athletic	15	6	3	6	35	29	+6	21
Henlow	14	5	2	7	26	37	-11	17
AFC Kempston Town Reserves	14	5	2	7	24	37	-13	17
Sandy	15	5	1	9	32	32	+0	16
Campton Reserves	16	5	0	11	32	46	-14	15
Stevington	16	4	2	10	31	48	-17	14
Ickwell & Old Warden Reserves	13	4	1	8	27	37	-10	13
Kempston Hammers Sports	13	3	1	9	31	38	-7	10

Saturday, 05 September 2009: FC Meppershall v AFC Kempston Town Reserves - Away Win was awarded

Like in Division One, just two games survived the weather in Division Two and to make it a double night of celebration at Miller Road, Meltis Albion's fellow tenants Bedford Hatters came up with a 7-1 home win over Great Barford to extend their lead at the head of the league table to six points over Potton Wanderers, who in the day's only other game in this section were held to a 3-3 draw at Marston Shelton Rovers.

Hatters were soon on their way to their seventh win on the bounce against Great Barford, when two goals from Scott Alleyne in the 18th and 23rd minutes saw them 2-0 ahead, the real surprise was it took until a minute in the second period before Tom

Redmond extended their lead to 3-0. It was now all plain sailing for The Hatters. Aran Izzard on the hour mark making it 5-0, then a Tom Redmond penalty five minutes later took them six goals clear.

Great Barford, with a successful penalty of their own from Stan Hobbs 15 minutes from time, were to reduce the arrears to 5-1 until Redmond completed his hat-trick three minutes from time and Danny De Feo made it seven up in the 89th minute.



Great Barford FC

For second place Potton Wanderers, it was a case of what might have been at Marston Shelton Rovers. Two goals from Danny Fox in the 10th and 25th minutes saw them lead 2-0 until 10 minutes later Rovers clawed their way back in the game with a strike from Antony Henman, on 65 minutes. It was all square and all to play for again when Xenon Paul levelled matters at 2-2.

Wanderers, who at start of play had lost just once on the road this season regained the lead on 70 minutes with a goal from Joe Harrington but were then to lose the plot via red cards for Dave Trundle and Fox to leave them to battle out the closing stages with just nine men. This task proved to be beyond them when eight minutes from time Rovers Charlie Standish made it 3-3 to keep his sides unbeaten home ways intact for the season, to remain just one point behind The Wanderers in the league standings and very much still in the promotion race.

Division Two League Table at 16th January 2010

14 Teams	Games Played	Games Won	Games Drawn	Games Lost	Goals For	Goals Against	Goal Difference	Points
Bedford Hatters	15	12	2	1	60	18	+42	38
Potton Wanderers	14	10	2	2	59	20	+39	32
Marston Shelton Rovers	14	9	4	1	51	19	+32	31
Arlesey Social Galacticos	14	7	3	4	31	31	+0	24
Brache Sparta Community Reserves	12	6	4	2	31	20	+11	22
Kings AFC	13	6	2	5	42	31	+11	20
Shefford Town	13	6	2	5	36	30	+6	20
Marabese Ceramics	13	5	1	7	17	27	-10	16
Harpur FC	13	4	2	7	31	40	-9	14
Great Barford	14	4	2	8	26	43	-17	14
Kempston Royals	14	4	2	8	23	40	-17	14
Clifton	13	2	4	7	17	33	-16	10
Elstow Abbey 06	14	3	1	10	19	47	-28	10
Shillington [Saturday]	12	0	1	11	19	63	-44	

Division Three

The one and only scheduled game in Division Three went ahead and was to see a 3-2 home win for Caldecote A over Sandy Reserves to lift them up to sixth spot in the league table.

Ahead at the break with two goals from Lee Pyke, Caldecote were then put on the back foot when Sandy's Leon Bryan reduced the arrears three minutes into the second period, however Steve Bush quickly restored their two goal advantage to make it 3-1 until Dean Haines struck the games last goal five minutes from time.

Division Four and Watson Shield

All scheduled eight games were postponed due to the weather.

Division Three League Table at 16th January 2010

10 Teams	Games Played	Games Won	Games Drawn	Games Lost	Goals For	Goals Against	Goal Difference	Points
Queens Park Crescents	10	8	2	0	42	11	+31	26
Dunton Reserves	10	6	1	3	27	24	+3	19
Lidlington United Sports	9	5	2	2	24	14	+10	17
Stopsley Park	10	4	4	2	36	24	+12	16
Renhold Village	10	4	2	4	33	27	+6	14
Caldecote 'A'	10	4	1	5	20	47	-27	13
Wilshamstead Reserves	9	4	0	5	28	21	+7	12
Westoning Recreation Club [Saturday] Reserves	9	3	2	4	17	21	-4	11
Sandy Reserves	11	1	2	8	19	42	-23	5
Riseley Sports Reserves	8	1	0	7	20	35	-15	3

Preview Saturday January 23rd 2010

The action next weekend for Bedfordshire County Football League clubs comes with a mixture of cup and league fixtures headed by ties in all of the three major Bedfordshire FA cup competitions. Topping the bill will be The Bedfordshire FA Senior Trophy game at Hillgrounds between hosts AFC Kempston Town and their Hereward United Counties League Division One visitors Potton United, who travel perhaps the favourites to make it into the hat for the Semi-Final draw.

Meanwhile five sides go to battle in Round Three of The Bedfordshire FA Intermediate Cup. At Stanbridge Road, it's an all Bedfordshire County League affair between hosts Leighton United and Caldecote Reserves, with the visitors travelling in the knowledge they have already netted a league win over their hosts back in late October at Harvey Close, but will also be well aware United have won their last six outings.

Of the other three clubs in action just Kempston have home advantage when they host 61FC Luton Reserves at Cutler Hammer, the Luton side travel currently sitting fourth in the Molten Spartan South Midlands League Reserve Division Two table.

For Marston Social it's a trip to face high-flying AFC Dunstable Reserves of The Molten Spartan South Midlands Reserve Division Two, where the hosts currently

hold down second spot in the league standings, plus for Henlow it's a trip to face Luton District & South Beds League, St Josephs.

The main focus of attention for the lower division sides comes with action in the 3rd Round of this season's Bedfordshire FA Junior Cup. Of the eight ties taking place, five are all Bedfordshire County Football League affairs. At Mill Lane, it will be a major surprise if hosts and Division Two high flyers Potton Wanderers fail to beat the visiting Shillington, but the other all Division Two clash at Groveside between Marabese Ceremics and Brache Sparta Community Reserves looks much harder to call.

Elsewhere, there is a chance for a spot of giant killing for two Division Three sides with home ties over Division Two opposition. Division Three league leaders Queens Park Crescents look to have the best chance, when in Mowsbury Park they entertain Kings AFC, but with Harpur FC having failed to win in away league action this season, Renhold Village will perhaps fancy their chances of an upset when they host them at Renhold Playing Fields.

The sole surviving Division Four side at this stage of the competition are M & DH Oakley, yet whilst they have been given a home draw, that's where their luck ends as their visitors are Division Two league leaders Bedford Hatters who you would expect to come out on top.

For Marston Shelton Rovers, it's home action against Stopsley Baptist Church, whilst at Greenfield Road, Westoning Recreation Club Reserves have home advantage against North Bucks League outfit, Heath Panthers United.

Kick off in all these Bedfordshire FA cup- ties being 1.30pm.

Domestic cup action comes in shape of another series of group games in The Watson Shield. In Group Three at Lodge Road, Sharnbrook Reserves require just a point or better to earn a place in the last 16 when they host Kempston Athletic.

However in Group Six, it's still all to play for at Keysoe Road, when Thurleigh entertain Stewartby Village in the first of their two meetings to decide who will join Renhold Village from this group into the last 16. Whilst Group Seven action at Whiston Crescent between hosts Clifton Reserves and visitors Flitwick Town Reserves could well sort out who will head the qualification from this group and thus earn home advantage at the last 16 stage of the competition.

On the league front in The Premier Division supported by Sportsform, it's home action at Moggerhanger Playing Fields for league leaders Blunham where they will look to take their winning ways to 10 games when paid a visit by Sharnbrook. While just down the road on The Green, second place Ickwell & Old Warden will be fully expecting to take their own winning ways to seven games when visited by bottom of the table Westoning Recreation Club who are yet to win on the road this season.

Trailing the men from The Green in third spot are Caldecote who will be hitting the road for local derby action at The Carlsberg Stadium against hosts Southill Alexander

who go into the game without a win since being successful at Campton in late October some seven games ago.

Also hitting the road are Oakley Sports, who make the journey to Crawley Road to face Woburn in search of away win number six on the bounce to keep them in the championship race.

Other top flight action comes at Rectory Road, where Campton look to end their sequence of four consecutive home defeats when Biggleswade United Reserves come calling ; and at Horseshoes Close, the venue for Dunton's home clash with Renhold United, the home side without a point from their last seven league outings. Whilst United travel without a win from their last five games which as seen them slip out of the championship race.

In Division One, league leaders Flitwick Town will be hoping to extend their lead at the head of the standings over the cup playing Leighton United when they journey to Cople Playing Fields looking for win number five on the bounce against hosts Bedford Sports Athletic. Whilst Meltis Albion with a home win at Miller Road over Blunham Reserves will climb the table into third spot at the expense of the cup-playing Caldecote Reserves.

At the other end of the table, the big battle of the day comes in the shape of Stevington's home clash with Campton Reserves as both sides look for the points to keep them out of the relegation zone, a comment that also applies to the Bedford Road Recreation Ground clash between Sandy and visitors AFC Kempston Town Reserves.

For current bottom of the table, Kempston Hammers Sports, it's a trip on the road to Mowsbury Park to face in form FC Meppershall who will be firm favourites to collect their fourth win on the bounce.

With all the Cup action taking place there are just three games to the Division Two programme. At Arlesey Recreation Ground, fourth place Arlesey Social Galacticos will be in home action against second from bottom of the table Elstow Abbey who travel in search of their first away win of the season. Whilst just down the road it's local derby action between hosts Shefford Town who seek to take their unbeaten ways to six games against the travelling Clifton, who sit just three places off the bottom of the league table.

The third and final game in this Division coming at Hillgrounds with a clash between the two sides immediately above Clifton in the standings when hosts Kempston Royals look to end a three game losing home run when visited by Great Barford.

Division Three action is also a programme of just three games, third place Lidlington United Sports on their way to Harvey Close now unbeaten in their last four league outings to face Caldecote A in search of the three points that will lift them above the non-playing Dunton Reserves, but any slip up would give Stopsley Park a chance to occupy second spot come the final whistles should they collect the three points from their own visit to Jubilee Playing Fields where they face Wilshamstead Reserves.

The day's final game in this Division coming at Gold Street where bottom of the table Riseley Reserves take on Sandy Reserves knowing a victory for them will see the sides swap places in the league table.

Division Four action, is restricted to just two games, bottom of the table Bedford Park Rangers looking to end a six game losing run when they entertain Dinamo Flitwick in Mowsbury Park. Whilst for league leaders Sundon Park Rangers it's a trip to Hillgrounds and a meeting with Eastcotts.