



Bedfordshire County **Football League**

Season 2023-24 Final Report



Premier Division supported by Sportsform

Caldecote, having placed no better than seventh last season, were to claim their first Premier Division title since season 2012-13 by an eventual margin of five points. They were to be beaten just twice both at home against Stotfold Development and AFC Oakley, whilst winning 11 of their 12 away outings, their 100% record spoilt by sharing the points in a 0-0 away draw at Stotfold Development.

Collecting the silver medals after a sixth place 2022-23 finish were Stotfold Development, apart from the previously mentioned home draw with Caldecote they were to be beaten just once on home soil by Crawley Green Reserves and suffer two defeats on the road at AFC Oakley and Elstow Abbey. They also collected a second set of silver medals in losing 2-1 to Elstow Abbey in this season's Britannia Cup Final.

Third spot was to be occupied by AFC Oakley, an improvement of two places from season 2023-24.. Any chance of a serious title challenge was to evaporate for them by collecting just one home point from five outings between the period 18th November to 9th March until they ended the season by winning all of their last nine games.

In fourth place were last season's champions Elstow Abbey, who just simply appeared to run out of stream by collecting just four points from their last eight outings during which period for the second consecutive season they were beaten this time by Totternhoe in the final of the Bedfordshire FA Senior Trophy until ending their campaign on a high by retaining their hold on the Britannia Cup with that victory over Stotfold Development.

Having finished fourth last season Biggleswade FC Reserves dropped a place into fifth spot this season. A collection of their first home victory of the season not arriving until early February and just five away wins on the road best summing up their campaign.

Biggleswade United Reserves this season jumped up six places to take up a top six finish. All of which was on the cards to be a higher placing before being defeated in six of their closing eight games.

Flitwick Town where to place seventh up four places from season 2022-23 all being achieved despite only collecting three wins by the turn of the year. Whilst last season's third place Crawley Green Reserves dropped this term to eighth spot, the fact that only five times during the season did they win back to back games summing up their disappointing season.

Please note the below league table shows Crawley Green Reserves and Queens Park Crescents have played one game fewer, this being due to their game on the 27th April 2024 being abandoned due to a serious player injury and there being insufficient time for the game to be rearranged this season.

Premier Division supported by Sportsform League Table

Pos	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Caldecote First	24	21	1	2	78	23	55	64
2	Stotfold Development	24	19	2	3	79	21	58	59
3	AFC Oakley First	24	15	2	7	89	43	46	47
4	Elstow Abbey First	24	13	3	8	66	42	24	42
5	Biggleswade FC Reserves	24	11	2	11	70	57	13	35
6	Biggleswade United Reserves	24	10	2	12	60	59	1	32
7	Flitwick Town First	24	9	5	10	49	63	-14	32
8	Crawley Green Reserves	23	10	1	12	46	44	2	31
9	Marston Shelton Rovers First	24	8	5	11	45	57	-12	29
10	Queens Park Crescents First	23	7	5	11	52	59	-7	26
11	Shefford Town & Campton Reserves	24	8	2	14	52	70	-18	26
12	Riseley Sports First	24	8	1	15	40	67	-27	25
13	AFC Kempston Town Hammers First	24	0	1	23	17	138	-121	1
14	Sharnbrook First	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

For Marston Shelton Rovers it was a jump from thirteen to ninth this season mainly due to collecting six of their eight victories during the season on home soil. Whilst Queens Park Crescents took up tenth place also an improvement of four spots after winning three of their last four outings.

In eleventh place were Shefford Town & Campton Reserves. Very much looking like relegation candidates with just two wins in the opening half of the season by winning six times in the second half of the season they eventually climbed out of the drop zone.

Slipping into twelfth spot from a eighth place 2022-23 finish were Riseley Sports who until winning just one of the last six outings looked set for a top ten finish.

With Sharnbook pulling out of the league in early February , the bottom place finish belonged to AFC Kempston Town Hammers whose sole point of the season came in a 2-2 at Queens Park Crescents in Mid-October. The Hammers to be admired and applauded for their endeavours to complete their season's fixtures, a shining example to all those clubs/teams that have forfeited games at a drop of a hat thus showing little to no respect for their fellow club members and also a total lack of respect towards the competition.

Division One

The Division One championship title was for the second consecutive season to be claimed by Totternhoe Reserves this season on goal difference from runners-up Wootton Blue Cross. The champions ended their season unbeaten in their last 12 outings including a penultimate game 3-0 home win over Wootton Blue Cross. The Totts remained unbeaten on home soil all season with their 100% perfect record only spoiled by a 2-2 draw against Clifton.

Wootton Blue Cross in finishing second up six places from season 2022-23 will take comfort by landing this season's Bedfordshire FA Intermediate Cup Final with a victory over AFC Oakley Development and The Peter Dean Memorial Cup Final with a victory over Cambs League Gamlingay United.

Both clubs however were quite rightly far from happy with Bedford Albion and Henlow failing to raise sides to meet them in the closing 10 days of the season.

In third place albeit some 13 points adrift and up from a sixth place finish last season were Buffs FC all achieved after losing their opening four starts of the season. They also contested their first ever BCFL league cup final in losing out to Cranfield United Reserves in the final of the Centenary Cup.

Just a point behind Buffs in fourth spot were the Centenary Cup winners Cranfield United Reserves mainly due to being just beaten three times at home during the season by Buffs, Clifton and Wootton Blue Cross.

Having been promoted from Division Two, Harlington Juniors took up fifth place with a strong second half of the season having opened their campaign with just four wins from their first eleven games. Whilst Clifton dropped a place this season to finish sixth and like the Juniors enjoyed a profitable second half of the season losing just two of their last 10 games.

In seventh place were Bedford Albion, having started their season by winning their opening four games things then went downhill with their last eight home outings producing just one victory, that coming over bottom of the table Lewsey Park. Plus ending on a real low in failing to raise a side to travel to Totternhoe Reserves in their last scheduled outing of the season.

Another club to start well and then fade away were the newly promoted Renhold to take up eighth place ending their season by winning just two of their last 10 outings.

The same tale can be said about the next two finishers. Ninth place AFC Oakley Development winning just two of their last 12 outings and tenth place Henlow just two of their last 10 games (can't call it outings has they simply just forfeited the last two)

The third promoted club was Bedford SA who occupied the second from bottom spot winning just four games all season, two at home and two away. Whilst taking up the bottom spot of finishers were Lewsey Park whose only away point in their haul of 10 came at Bedford SA in late October.

Both Cambridge FC who were to fold just four games into the season and Milton Keynes Dons Set U19 Development who pulled out in early January failed to make the finishing line.

Division One League Table

Pos	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Totternhoe Reserves	22	16	3	3	72	33	39	51
2	Wootton Blue Cross First	22	16	3	3	60	29	31	51
3	Buffs FC Saturday First	22	12	2	8	42	45	-3	38
4	Cranfield United Reserves	22	11	4	7	59	36	23	37
5	Harlington Juniors First	22	11	3	8	55	40	15	36
6	Clifton First	22	9	3	10	47	48	-1	30
7	Bedford Albion First	22	9	3	10	42	42	0	29*
8	Renhold First	22	8	4	10	43	52	-9	26*
9	AFC Oakley Development	22	7	4	11	44	49	-5	25
10	Henlow First	22	7	3	12	35	51	-16	18*
11	Bedford SA First	22	4	4	14	36	68	-32	13*
12	Lewsey Park First	22	2	4	16	26	68	-42	10
13	Cambridge First	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
14	Milton Keynes Dons SET U19 Development S	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-9*

Division Two North

With Division Two split into North and South sections for the first time this season, the North Section winners were last season's Division Three champions Ickwell & Old Warden. The story of their season down to being unbeaten in the opening seven outings of which six were won until they suffered three straight defeats before ending their campaign unbeaten in their last nine outings of which eight were won. to see them finish seven points clear of second place Kempston United who were likewise promoted from Division Three (under their previous name of Kempston Rovers

BCFL) The United being beaten just four times all season twice by Sharnbrook Reserves plus at home against AFC Bedford United and away at Wilstead.

Ickwell & Old Warden then went on to lose the Division Two play off final against Division Two South winners Stopsley United.

Please note the final league table below shows both Ickwell & Old Warden and Stopsley United having played one game fewer than all the other teams, this being due to their game against each other being declared null and void earlier in the season.

Division Two North League Table

Pos	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Ickwell & Old Warden First	19	14	2	3	55	26	29	44
2	Kempston United First	19	11	4	4	51	24	27	37
3	Wootton Blue Cross Reserves	20	9	6	5	41	32	9	33
4	Shefford Town & Campton Development	20	10	3	7	34	36	-2	33
5	Sharnbrook Reserves	20	9	5	6	51	30	21	32
6	AFC Bedford United (Sat) First	20	9	5	6	40	29	11	32
7	Wilstead First	20	10	2	8	39	40	-1	32
8	Caldecote Reserves	20	7	6	7	36	30	6	27
9	Blunham First	20	5	4	11	23	36	-13	16 *
10	M&DH Clapham Sports First	20	3	3	14	20	49	-29	12
11	Sandy First	20	1	2	17	16	74	-58	5
12	Bande Rouge (Sat) First	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-2 *
13	AFC Kempston Town Hammers Reserves	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-3 *

In third spot heading a cluster of five teams separated by just one point were Wootton Blue Reserves. How do you sum up their season, successful by being beaten five times ? or unsuccessful by winning just nine games?

In fourth place by goal difference only and up three spots from season 2022-23 were Shefford Town & Campton Development whose high placing holds up to being defeated just three times on the road all season at Blunham, Caldecote Reserves and Kempston United.

Just a point behind in fifth place and up three spots from last season were Sharnbrook Reserves whose promotion hopes were dashed by winning just two of their last seven outings.

It was a top six finish for AFC Bedford United who conceded just 29 goals all season, a record only bettered by the top two clubs but with just one point from their closing three games any hopes of a top three finish were to vanish.

In the seventh spot just the goal difference behind United was Wilstead whose form on the road, just three wins from their 10 outings scuppered any chance of a higher place finish.

Repeating their eighth place finish of 2022-23 were Caldecote Reserves, all of their seasons seven victories coming in their opening 10 games before a winless run of 10 games curtailed their campaign.

The bottom three places are all being taken up by newly promoted teams, ninth place Blunham netting just 23 goals all season (the third lowest) and winning just twice on the road. Whilst in tenth spot was M&DH Clapham Sports who recorded just three victories all season, a double over last place finisher Sandy and a home win over Blunham.

Sandy enjoyed just one victory all season at home over Caldecote Reserves and conceded some 74 goals, some 25 more than the second worst team M&DH Clapham Sports.

Like in Division Two two teams failed to make it to the finishing line, AFC Kempston Town Hammers Reserves and Bande Rouge who both departed in late January

Division Two South

Stopsley United were to top the Division Two section by a massive 16 points, failing to win just three times all season, drawing away at Lea Sports PSG in Mid-November before suffering their only defeat of the campaign in their penultimate outing of the season at home against LU Donz then drawing 0-0 at home in their last game of the season against Caddington both coming long after the section title had been obtained. The overall Division Two title was then claimed with a 3-1 victory over Division Two North winners Ickwell & Old Warden. Cup success also came their way in lifting the Jubilee Cup with a narrow 1-0 victory over FC Polonia (Luton)

The silver medals and second place going to Westoning Recreation who netted a remarkable 111 goals in a season where they were defeated only once on home soil on day one of the season by Stopsley United .

In third spot were league newcomers LU Donz despite them having to play 12 of their games in the closing six weeks of the season of which eight of them were won. to take them two points ahead of fourth place Sporting Carpathians whose deducted of points due to breach of rules cost them the silver medals.

In fifth place were Lea Sports PSG for whom eight of the 15 victories in the season came on the road. whilst the top six was made up by league newcomers Bletchley Scot who lost only twice on home soil against Stopsley United and LU Donz but were prevented from a higher place finish by winning just four times on the road from their 13 outings.

Fellow league newcomers Caddington in seventh spot and eighth place New Bradwell St Peter Development both ended their seasons on six game unbeaten runs to keep them well clear of ninth place Brache Phoenix, who won just eight games all campaign, five at home and three on the road.

It was a very disappointing season for tenth place FC Haynes all mainly down to their away form where just three of their 10 victories of the season were achieved, a comment that also applies to eleventh place Stotfold Junior who after winning their opening two away games then only once more won on the road at bottom of the table The 61 FC Luton Reserves.

Finishing third from bottom were Flitwick Town Reserves who won just six times, four at home and two on the road. Whilst second from the bottom of the table FC Polonia (Luton) won just twice all season in completing a double of The 61 FC Luton Reserves. Yet their highlight of the season saw them make the Jubilee Cup Final where they were beaten just 1-0 by Stopsley United.

For The 61FC Luton Reserves it was a bottom place finish, only gaining points with a victory at Stotfold Junior and from home draws against Caddington and FC Haynes.

Division Two South League Table

Pos	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Stopsley United First	26	23	2	1	100	25	75	71
2	Westoning Recreation First	26	17	4	5	111	40	71	55
3	LU Donz First	26	17	1	8	76	44	32	52
4	Sporting Carpathians First	26	16	3	7	95	41	54	50 *
5	Lea Sports PSG Saturday First	26	15	3	8	78	54	24	45 *
6	Bletchley Scot First	26	13	3	10	86	60	26	42
7	Caddington (BCFL)	26	11	6	9	49	53	-4	39
8	New Bradwell St Peter FC Development	26	12	4	10	48	46	2	38 *
9	Brache Phoenix First	26	8	6	12	71	85	-14	30
10	FC Haynes First	26	10	4	12	77	60	17	28 *
11	Stotfold Junior First (Sat)	26	9	1	16	57	95	-38	27 *
12	Flitwick Town Reserves	26	6	3	17	40	93	-53	20 *
13	FC Polonia (Luton) First	26	2	2	22	44	130	-86	8
14	The 61 FC (Luton) Reserves	26	1	2	23	18	124	-106	4 *

Division Three supported by Hy-Pro

There is an old theory that no league title can be won in the opening month of the season or in the closing month of the season but that's achieved by what happens between these two periods. Well that theory must now be up for discussion as the defining moment of the outcome of this season's Division Three supported Hy-Pro title came on Saturday 20th April 2024 with Harlington Juniors Reserves visit to face Caldecote A. The Juniors committed a serious breach of league rules that handed the points on the day to Caldecote A and in turn saw them penalised another five points penalty points which come the end of the season saw Caldecote A take the title by a margin of just two points. The Juniors also had to settle for the silver medals when losing to Shefford Town & Campton U23 in the final of this season's Watson Shield.

Just four points adrift of the title winners in third spot were Luton Panthers who will perhaps rue that of their six defeats during the season four of them came on home soil. Just two points behind the Panthers in fourth spot were Leighton Woodside Rovers who were one of only two teams in all five divisions not to draw a game all season (Division 4 champions Kempston Athletic being the other)

Bedford Albion Development took up fifth place, just two home defeats at the hands of Harlington Juniors Reserves and Luton Panthers alongside just three wins on the road summing up their campaign. Whilst Clifton Reserves made up the top six, their promotion campaign fell away after they commenced the season by losing just one of their opening eight games of which seven were played away from home.

Division Three supported by Hy-Pro League Table

Pos	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Caldecote 'A'	18	12	2	4	52	21	31	38
2	Harlington Juniors Reserves	18	13	2	3	51	21	30	36 *
3	Luton Panthers First	18	11	1	6	69	32	37	34
4	Leighton Woodside Rovers	18	11	0	7	43	36	7	32 *
5	Bedford Albion Development	18	9	3	6	52	32	20	30
6	Clifton Reserves	18	8	4	6	30	37	-7	28
7	Elstow Abbey Reserves	18	9	1	8	32	37	-5	25 *
8	Queens Park Crescents Development	18	2	5	11	26	56	-30	11
9	Flitwick Town 'A'	18	2	3	13	20	56	-36	9
10	GS Athletic First	18	2	1	15	21	68	-47	5 *
11	CS Rovers First	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-6 *

Taking up seventh place were Elstow Abbey Reserves, with just one defeat during the period early October to early March to place them in the promoted race their

season then turned into turmoil with them failing to raise a side to play their last two games of the season.

Below the Abbey in eighth place albeit 14 points adrift were Queens Park Crescents Development who won just two home games all season and gained just a single point on the road from their nine away outings at Harlington Juniors Reserves losing the other eight.

In ninth place were Flitwick Town A who like the Crescents won just twice at home and gained just one point on the road all campaign at Queens Park Crescents. The bottom spot belonged to GS Athletic who like the two teams above them only drew once on the road at Queens Park Crescents who were one of only two teams they beat at home, Flitwick Town A being the other.

CS Rovers failed to make the finishing line when folding at the end of January.

Division Four

Kempston Athletic were to gain the Division Four title by a margin of five points losing just three times all campaign. Home and away against Shefford Town & Campton U23 and away at Athletic FC. It was the Athletic who took the silver medals thanks to their season's 100% home record backed up by just two defeats on the road at Kempston Athletic and Meltis Rangers.

Missing out on those silver medals by just two points were Shefford Town & Campton U23 who likewise lost just twice during the season at home to Lidlington United Sports Club Colts and away at Athletic. However they were to gain two sets of gold medals by lifting the Bedfordshire FA Junior Cup with a 3-0 final victory over North Bucks & District League Woburn & Wavendon and the Watson Shield with a 4-1 final victory over Harlington Juniors Reserves.

Some eight points adrift of the Town in fourth place were Dunstable Wanderers who were to finish the season on a high winning eight of their last nine outings. Whilst next came Meltis Rangers whose away account of just four wins just kept them two points ahead of sixth place Sandy Reserves whose away record shows just the two victories.

Heading the bottom half of the table some 10 points behind the boys from Bedford Road were Turvey who won just twice on home soil all season. Whilst eighth place M&DH Clapham Sports Reserves who at one stage were looking good for a top six finish faded badly by failing to win any of their last seven outings.

Places nine to eleven were separated by goal difference only and headed by Lidlington United Sports Club Colts who by the turn of year had won just the twice via a double over Leighton Woodside Athletic who then only added another three wins to their tally by the end of the season.

For tenth place Ampthill Town Colts of their five wins only one was to come on home soil via three gifted points from Lidlington United Sports Club Colts. Also winning just

five times were second from the bottom of the table Catsbrook Wanderers, three at home and two on the road.

Taking up the wooden spoons placing were Leighton Woodside Athletic, Just four wins all season, three at home of which one came in the first game of the campaign and the third in their final game of the season plus one on the road at Turvey. over whom they completed a season's double.

Division Four League Table

Pos	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Kempston Athletic First	22	19	0	3	99	18	81	57
2	Athletic FC First	22	16	4	2	68	36	32	52
3	Shefford Town & Campton U23	22	15	5	2	81	30	51	50
4	Dunstable Wanderers First	22	13	3	6	66	44	22	42
5	Meltis Rangers First	22	11	4	7	63	44	19	34 *
6	Sandy Reserves	22	9	3	10	53	55	-2	30
7	Turvey	22	5	5	12	38	68	-30	20
8	M&DH Clapham Sports Reserves	22	5	4	13	26	63	-37	18 *
9	Lidlington United Sports Club Colts	22	5	3	14	37	63	-26	17 *
10	Amphill Town Colts	22	5	2	15	36	84	-48	17
11	Catsbrook Wanderers First	22	5	3	14	22	71	-49	17 *
12	Leighton Woodside Athletic	22	4	4	14	37	50	-13	5 *
13	Biggleswade FC Development	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0