

Bedfordshire County Football League

Season 2017-18

News Bulletin Number 8

8th October 2017



Found on a Website

Bedfordshire Senior Trophy, First Round –
Totternhoe 4 Queens Park Crescents 0
Spectator headcount 26
Admission free, no programme, coffee £1

Some weeks back I agreed to drive my wife to an early Saturday evening flight at Luton Airport (which, by sheer fluke, originally tied in with hopping Ashford at Kempston Rovers before their Cup run changed things), but her twitchiness about motorway traffic and check-in procedures meant that she'd accompany me to a game (a shock in itself) provided it was within half an hour of the airport, and I'd already hopped The 61FC. Luckily, I saw this fixture on FullTime.

I didn't realise somewhere so rurally pleasant was on Dunstable's doorstep. Totternhoe play at the Dunstable Road recreation ground, with their pitch railed on the playground side and the end nearest the beautifully autumnal trees and hillside, and roped off on the side with the 'dugouts' (plastic chairs), and the car park end has a long and cosy clubhouse with some benches next to the outer wall, protected by a cavernous one-level overhang which can probably shelter a hundred.

I asked a Totternhoe official if I could copy the teamsheets...

"Are you here with Queens?"

"No, I'm a groundhopper"

"Sorry...." Slight pause

(I thought "That's a bit disparaging....")

"....there's no programme. Hang on. I'll get you an old one" – which he did, one of their regular Anagram Trophy issues.

This didn't have the makings of a close match, with Totternhoe top of the Spartan South Midlands Division Two and their Bedford-based visitors propping up the Bedfordshire Premier Division in their maiden season. Indeed, when Andy Cleere volleyed home in the 2nd minute and Dan Dyer-White headed in for 2-0 eight minutes later, I feared a rout. It turned out Totternhoe weren't actually very good, with the only other major incident of the half happening in the 38th minute, when QPC defender Hassan Yousaf landed awkwardly after an aerial challenge. The ref refused to allow him to move, asked him to be covered and requested an ambulance, which arrived within 25 minutes.

At this point I thought the match would either be abandoned, meaning a re-visit, or re-started at the

38th minute and finishing way after my deadline for starting the drive to Luton Airport, also meaning a re-visit. I was stunned, then, when the teams re-emerged, changed ends and the ref restarted the match at 4:12 straight into the second half! I was less stunned but nonetheless surprised when my wife pointed out QPC's keeper Nazam Nawaz was wearing sunglasses!

For 10 to 15 minutes either side of the break, QPC played well and deserved at least a goal, but they became tetchier and feistier as the game wore on, and once Aidan Murray hit one in off the bar's underside in the 78th minute it became shooting fish in a barrel time, with sub Sam Folland having one cleared from behind the line and given by the 'lino' five minutes from the end.

I managed to whizz the 'old girl' to WizzAir by 5:30. Having never been to Luton Airport before, I was bamboozled by having to pay £3 simply to drop her off (£3 for the first 10 minutes in the drop-off zone and £1 per minute thereafter, as it happens), so I spent 50% more dropping her off than I'd spent at the game!

Brian Buck Travellers Tales

61. (12,393) Wednesday 30th August 2017. Sandy 0 Henlow 7 (East Beds Charity Cup Quarter Final) att 30 approx. It's always good to be at Bedford Road at this time of the year, if only to see the trees which encase most of the ground, looking at their best. Soon after the match started a chap living in one of the houses abutting the pitch came out of his back gate to watch. Soon he said words I never thought I'd hear from any owner of a house adjoining a football pitch, "It would be nice if they put up floodlights here!" You could tell which way this game was going to go pretty much from the outset. Henlow fielded a team of seasoned players, whilst the Sandy side consisted a very young side. They were handicapped by the rules of the competition, which meant that Sandy couldn't field many of their first team. So it was that they took a bit of a hammering and they were 4-0 down at the break. By now I was a bit intrigued as to why there were three police 'no waiting' cones outside the clubhouse as there has never been parking issues here before and in fact I've never seen cars parked inside the ground. Turned out they were placed outside the dressing rooms to stop people loitering there. Anyway soon after some balloons passed overhead, one of them with a big '3' on it and with Henlow winning 7-0, the ref brought the game to a premature end by blowing the final whistle 5 minutes early. This time it was blown early intentionally!

68. (12,400) Wednesday 6th September 2017. Cranfield United 2 Ickwell & Old Warden 3 (Bedfordshire County League Premier Division) att 55 approx. This was an excellent night for football and the weather was just about perfect for an evening game, with there being no wind or rain and it being neither hot nor cold. Perhaps this brought out more people to watch as the number of people watching was surprising, bearing in mind that both sides had failed to win a match this season before tonight. This was a keenly contested game and Cranfield had the better of things in the first half. Not only did they take the lead on 11 minutes with a wonderful 30 yarder, they also had 7 other scoring chances, compared to Ickwell's one effort in the first minute. For me the visitors spent more time challenging the refs decisions than they did focusing on the game. Whether he gets decisions right or wrong, it is always the ref who holds the whistle. I can't believe that any qualified ref gives one jot which side wins, so why don't players get on with their game? In the second half Ickwell did just that and on 55 minutes they were rewarded with an equalising goal. Furthermore, within a minute they took the lead. Then four minutes after that they claimed a third goal. Cranfield were momentarily stunned, but the gradually reapplied themselves and on 70 minutes they pulled a goal back. Thereafter they created several good chances to get the equaliser, but couldn't take them. On the night with possession being fairly even it was more about who got the ball in the net the most and so Ickwell were pleased to win this quality encounter.

92. (12,424) Wednesday 4th October 2017. Bedfordshire County League 0 Wootton Blue Cross 0 (Friendly Match) (Played at Cranfield United) att 25 approx. This game was played to give the Beds County League (BCL) a run out before playing the Southern Amateur League in the renamed FA Inter-League Cup at the same venue on the following Saturday. Apparently they hold their committee meetings at New Scotland Yard. So they don't have to deal with too many disciplinary problems here, as the consequences can be very unpleasant! It was a very windy night here, and pretty nippy as well, but I suspect that it was just a normal evening up here for the good people of Cranfield. This was the Beds County League's first game together for two years, since they were knocked out of this competition but the Spartan South Midlands League. So for their warm up game did they want to play a team they could turn over quite easily, to give them confidence that they could create and convert chances, or did they want to face a team similar to the one they would play on the following Saturday to stretch them more? The latter option was chosen and in Wootton they came up against a very competent side who had the advantage in that they play regularly together. So really it was rather unsurprising that both sides turned out to be similar in ability, thus cancelling each other out. Chances were created by both sides though and on 11 minutes someone from the BCL managed to head wide from seemingly about two yards out with an open goal at his mercy. On 53 minutes the Wootton keeper made one of his many fine saves this evening when he somehow stopped a shot which he only saw at the last moment. The BCL had other chances as well, but they were often thwarted by the eagle eyed Wootton lino. Then right at the end Wootton nearly won it with a long range curling shot, which caught the wind. But it hit the base of the far post and rebounded into play.

Thursday 5th October 2017.

Division Two League Table Adjustment

Following tonight's Management Committee Meeting Marston Shelton Rovers are to be deducted three penalty points for use of an ineligible player in their game on Saturday 2nd September 2017 against Wixams Wanderers.

Adjusted Division Two League Table at 5th October 2017.

POS		P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Houghton Athletic First	6	5	1	0	21	8	13	16
2	Renhold United Reserves	7	5	1	1	30	18	12	16
3	Wilstead Reserves	7	5	1	1	24	15	9	16
4	Henlow Reserves	5	5	0	0	19	7	12	15
5	Atletico Europa First	7	3	3	1	20	14	6	12
6	Bedford Albion First	6	3	0	3	19	14	5	9
7	CS Rovers First	7	3	0	4	18	20	-2	9
8	Westoning First	6	2	1	3	25	18	7	7
9	Elstow Abbey First	5	2	0	3	6	9	-3	6
10	AFC Oakley M&DH (Sat) Reserves	5	2	0	3	7	12	-5	5 *
11	Caldecote Reserves	4	1	1	2	7	10	-3	4
12	Luton Leagrave AFC First	7	1	0	6	14	23	-9	3
13	Wixams Wanderers First	5	1	0	4	3	24	-21	3
14	Sundon Park Rovers First	5	0	2	3	9	15	-6	2
15	Marston Shelton Rovers Reserves	6	1	0	5	7	22	-15	0 *
Table detail		* adjustment made							

Action Round Up Saturday 7th October 2017.

The FA Inter-League Cup 1st Round

Bedfordshire County Football League 6 Southern Amateur Football League 4

The Bedfordshire County Football League will now face a home tie at the last 16 stage against The Amateur Football Combination after coming from two goals at the half time break to see off the visiting and previous cup winners The Southern Amateur Football League 6-4 in a game played before a crowd of 60 at Cranfield United.

All started well enough for the home side when just nine minutes into the contest Jim Burnside having been fouled in the box lifted himself off the floor to send the resulting penalty passed the visiting goalkeeper Ben Lancaster. However the visitors were level in the 20th minute when a Dan Barber free kick from 25 yards out took a nasty deflection passed home goalkeeper Reece Lewis to make it 1-1.

Within five minutes a scramble in the visiting penalty box saw Burnside shoot his side 2-1 ahead yet by half-time the tie was turned on it's head and seemingly all over as the visitors raced into a 4-2 lead. Within the next five minutes the home side were lucky to stay ahead as twice the visitors were only denied by the woodwork until in the 34th minute the speed of Josh Thompson took him clear of the home backline to make it 2-2 before they edged their noses in front for the first time when after Tim Clarke had fouled Barber in the box up stepped Peter Eguae to put the visitors 3-2 ahead, Barber was then to again hit the post before with virtually the last kick of the half Eguae netted his second goal of the afternoon to double the visitors lead and leave the home side with a mountain to climb.

In attendance at the game was now Football Association Councillor and former Football League referee Ray Lewis who noted the home side management of Gary Chance and Neil Worker had sent their troops out very early for the second period yet both denied post match that their half-time talk said " you got yourselves in this mess now get out there and sort it out". But sort it out they did.

On 67 minutes Burnside played the perfect pass into the path of substitute Scott Alleyne who made it 3-4 and just two minutes later Burnside claimed his hat-trick when he was sent racing away by Jack Hadden to make it all square and game back on at 4-4.

However the visitors were far from ready to lie down and die as home custodian Lewis was required to show his class twice inside a space of three minutes to keep out efforts from Thompson and Richard Parker before with just nine minutes left to play the home side regained the lead via Alleyne claiming his second goal of the game with a header on the backpost and then he placed the icing on the home cake when his flicked on header saw fellow substitute Ali Smith slam home goal number six from close range just three minutes from time.

Team : Reece Lewis (Shefford Town & Campton) Tim Clarke , Justin Newman (AFC Kempston Town & Bedford College) Daniel Green, (Cranfield United) Liam Beaumont, Jim Burnside (Shefford Town & Campton) Elijah Hukin, George Cox (AFC Oakley M&DH) Daniel Stafford (Flitwick Town) Robbie Alder(AFC Oakley M&DH) Jack Hadden (

Cranfield United) . Subs Used. Mark Smith (Cranfield United) Scott Alleyne (Ickwell & Old Warden) Ali Smith (Cranfield United)

Division One supported by O'Neills

Sandy's lead at the head of the Division One supported by O'Neills league table is now down to just goal difference after they lost their seasons unbeaten away ways when defeated 2-1 at Riseley Sports who now occupy that second place. James Crooke and James Jermyn netting the home goals against a penalty reply from Matt Johnson.

Division One supported by O'Neills League Table at 7th October 2017

POS		P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Sandy First	7	4	1	2	29	11	18	13
2	Riseley Sports First	7	4	1	2	16	11	5	13
3	Totternhoe Reserves	5	4	0	1	28	6	22	12
4	AFC Kempston Town & Bedford College Rese	5	4	0	1	20	9	11	12
5	Wixams First	6	4	0	2	15	8	7	12
6	Flitwick Town Reserves	5	4	0	1	13	8	5	12
7	Henlow First	6	3	1	2	12	8	4	10
8	Lea Sports PSG (Saturday) First	7	3	1	3	12	18	-6	10
9	Shefford Town & Campton Reserves	6	3	0	3	15	12	3	9
10	Cranfield United Reserves	5	2	1	2	8	9	-1	7
11	Cople & Bedford SA First	6	1	1	4	12	24	-12	4
12	Biggleswade Reserves	6	0	3	3	9	16	-7	3
13	Meltis Albion First	6	1	0	5	7	33	-26	3
14	The 61 FC (Luton) Reserves	7	0	1	6	11	34	-23	1

Table detail

Now in third spot just a single point behind the top two but having played two games fewer are Totternhoe Reserves who won 5-0 at Lea Sports PSG. Tom Howson with a brace joined on the scoresheet by Calum Burgess, Antony O'Grady and Lee Fromant to bring up the nap hand. Whilst climbing the table into fifth spot are Wixams who made it three away wins on the bounce with a 5-3 victory at The 61 FC Luton Reserves who are still looking for their first win of the season. Gareth White and Grant Tibbett both netting twice and Adam Jellis once against home replies via a Kane Dempsey brace plus a single strike from Ben Holdsworth.

Also winning on the road were both Henlow and Cople & Bedford SA. Goals from Antony Bowskill and Ryan Lamond on his Henlow debut taking them to a 2-0 win at Biggleswade FC Reserves whilst the SA claimed their first win of the season in winning 7-2 at Meltis Albion. Ollie Hughes leading the way with a hat-trick and joined on the scoresheet by single goals from Lucas Banton, James Munns, Gary Canzano and Ben Marwood against an Albion brace in reply from Adam Cranny.

Division Two

League Leaders Houghton Athletic failed to take full advantage of both second place Renhold United Reserves and third place Wilstead Reserves sitting the afternoon out when they were held to a 0-0 draw at Luton Leagrave AFC to skip just a point clear at the head of

the standings. Whilst Henlow Reserves missed the chance to move into second place when suffering their first defeat of the season 3-2 at home against Bedford Albion. Paul Babbington, Adam Lewis and Ryan Kelly on the Albion scoresheet against home replies via Russell Ayles and Keith Milburn.

Now just behind Henlow Reserves in fifth spot are Atletico Europa who are now unbeaten in their last five outings after winning 3-0 at CS Rovers who were duly losing their seasons 100% home ways. Aaron Van Horne with a brace plus a single strike from Paddy Alimanji doing the damage.

Elsewhere Elstow Abbey came from behind to win 2-1 at Westoning. A James Stewart penalty shooting the home side ahead before first Dean Leydon levelled matters up in the opening half and Charisma Agyemang banged home the second half winner.

Division Two League Table at 7th October 2017

POS		P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Houghton Athletic First	7	5	2	0	21	8	13	17
2	Renhold United Reserves	7	5	1	1	30	18	12	16
3	Wilstead Reserves	7	5	1	1	24	15	9	16
4	Henlow Reserves	6	5	0	1	21	10	11	15
5	Atletico Europa First	8	4	3	1	23	14	9	15
6	Bedford Albion First	7	4	0	3	22	16	6	12
7	Elstow Abbey First	6	3	0	3	8	10	-2	9
8	CS Rovers First	8	3	0	5	18	23	-5	9
9	Westoning First	7	2	1	4	26	20	6	7
10	AFC Oakley M&DH (Sat) Reserves	5	2	0	3	7	12	-5	5 *
11	Caldecote Reserves	4	1	1	2	7	10	-3	4
12	Luton Leagrave AFC First	8	1	1	6	14	23	-9	4
13	Wixams Wanderers First	5	1	0	4	3	24	-21	3
14	Sundon Park Rovers First	5	0	2	3	9	15	-6	2
15	Marston Shelton Rovers Reserves	6	1	0	5	7	22	-15	0 *

[Table detail](#)

* adjustment made

Division Three

The new leaders of the Division Three standings are Kempston Athletic who maintained their seasons unbeaten away ways with a 3-2 victory at Sandy Reserves who have now lost their last five outings. Josh St Clair Pierre with a brace plus Kian Marashi seeing their goals only replied to by a home brace from Liam Brophy.

Losing out on that top spot were White Swan who lost their seasons 100% away ways when beaten 5-2 at Clifton who are now just goal difference behind them in third spot and still unbeaten this season. Cameron Lewis with a brace plus goals from Josh Darnell, Dylan Donaldson and James Gough bringing up the home nap hand against replies via Levi Yearwood and Callum Green.

Slipping down the table from third place to fourth are Harlington after they were beaten 3-1 at home by Lidlington United Reserves. Carl Pearson, Brendan Cunningham and Edward

Janes the United goalscorers against one in reply from Adam Morgan. Whilst bottom of the table Wootton Village are still awaiting their first win of the season after being defeated 1-0 at Dinamo Flitwick for whom Daniel Day netted the all important goal.

Elsewhere Bedford Albion Reserves ran out 6-3 winners at White Eagles. Tom Wade with a brace joined on the Albion scoresheet by Aaron Wilson, Simon Wade, Dan Jeffries and Josh Emberton against Eagles replies via Andriej Zjabicews, Jan Bucur and Kamil Czajkowski.

Division Three League Table at 7th October 2017

POS		P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Kempston Athletic First	7	5	1	1	33	18	15	16
2	Black Swan (Luton)	7	5	0	2	29	13	16	15
3	Clifton First	7	4	3	0	29	13	16	15
4	Harlington First	7	4	0	3	30	19	11	12
5	Lidlington United Sports Club First	7	4	0	3	14	11	3	12
6	Bedford Albion Reserves	6	3	2	1	14	9	5	11
7	Flitwick Town 'A'	5	3	1	1	11	8	3	10
8	Shefford Town & Campton 'A'	5	3	0	2	17	11	6	9
9	AFC Kempston Town & Bedford College 'A'	7	2	3	2	13	18	-5	9
10	Caldecote 'A'	5	2	2	1	18	15	3	8
11	Dinamo Flitwick First	6	2	1	3	6	26	-20	7
12	White Eagles First	7	2	0	5	18	26	-8	6
13	Sandy Reserves	6	1	0	5	10	20	-10	3
14	Stevington Reserves	6	0	2	4	5	21	-16	2
15	Wootton Village First	8	0	1	7	8	27	-19	1

Table detail

The Next 7 Days

Saturday 14th October 2017.

Premier Division supported by Sportsform

AFC Kempston Town & Bedford College v Caldecote **2pm**

AFC Oakley M&DH v Sharnbrook

Flitwick Town v Shefford Town & Campton

Kempston Rovers Development v Crawley Green Reserves

Marston Shelton Rovers v Ickwell & Old Warden

Queens Park Crescents v Stevington

Wilstead v Wootton Blue Cross

Cranfield United v Renhold United **5pm**

Division One supported by O'Neills

Wixams v Sandy **11.00am**

Biggleswade FC Reserves v Flitwick Town Reserves

Cople & Bedford SA v Riseley Sports

Lea Sports PSG v Cranfield United Reserves

Meltis Albion v AFC Kempston Town & Bedford College Reserves

Shefford Town & Campton Reserves v Henlow

Totternhoe Reserves v 61 FC Luton Reserves

Division Two

Caldecote Reserves v CS Rovers

Elstow Abbey v Wilstead Reserves

Henlow Reserves v Wixams Wanderers

Houghton Athletic v Bedford Albion

Marston Shelton Rovers Reserves v Luton Leagrave AFC

Sundon Park Rovers v Renhold United Reserves

Westoning v AFC Oakley M&DH Reserves

Division Three

Bedford Albion Reserves v Caldecote A

Black Swan (Luton) v White Eagles

Dinamo Flitwick v AFC Kempston Town & Bedford College A

Lidlington United Sports v Kempston Athletic

Sandy Reserves v Clifton

Shefford Town & Campton A v Flitwick Town A

Stevington Reserves v Harlington

