



Bedfordshire Football League October 2008 Newsletter



This months Newsletter we open up in form of a all our yesterdays article and take a look back to season 1952-53 which shows just two current member clubs **Stevington** and **Great Barford** appearing in the Division One table (the top flight of the league going Premier Division from season 1955/56 onwards.) or if you want to be generous make that three as in eighth spot you will find **Lidlington** whilst the current club from that village is now called **Lidlington United Sports**

1952-53 Season Bedford & District League Division One Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 RAF Brampton	26	22	3	1	91	25	47
2 Buckden	26	20	2	4	97	45	42
3 Stevington	26	17	6	3	91	36	40
4 Clapham	26	16	5	5	103	48	37
5 Mewa Sports	26	15	2	9	85	52	32
6 Great Barford	26	10	7	9	45	51	27
7 Shefford Town A	26	10	3	13	58	76	23
8 Lidlington	26	8	5	13	63	66	21
9 Haynes Athletic	26	8	5	13	59	81	21
10 Wrestlingworth	26	8	5	13	43	83	21
11 Ampthill Reserves	26	6	7	13	51	84	19
12 Kempston Rovers	26	5	5	16	43	83	15
13 Goldington Sports	26	3	4	19	37	89	10
14 St Neots & District A	26	4	1	21	53	98	9

But a study of the fourteen clubs who formed the top flight in season 1952-53 finds that none of them where to have continuous membership of the league during the remaining seasons of the fifties although perhaps **Kempston Rovers** can lay claim to being the only one, playing in the league for the next five seasons then for the last two seasons their club membership was via **Kempston Rovers Reserves**.

For champions **RAF Brampton** they were to remain in league membership just one more season finishing third behind **Stevington** and **Clapham** whilst runners-up **Buckden** were to stay just two seasons finishing 8th in 1953-54 and 11th in season 1954-55.

Stevington were to have a somewhat chequered passage through the fifties, winning the top flight title in season 1953-54 before placing seventh the following season then for some reason appearing has a Division One club in season 1955-56 (by now the top

flight had been renamed Premier Division) a Division they were to win in season 1956-57 which was followed in season 1957-58 with the winning of the Premier Division title, before the clubs name does not appear in any Bedford & District League table until season 1964-65 when they were played in Division Two.

For **Clapham**, season 1953-54 saw them finish runners-up until going one better the following season then claiming third spot in season 1955-56 but that's where the name of **Clapham** ends not appearing anywhere in season 1956-57 but the following season 1957-58 a club called **Clapham Sports**, placed 4th in Division One before claiming that title in season 1958-59 and the Premier Division Title in season 1959-60.

For fifth place **Mewa Sports**, it was the end of the road and since that season 1952-53 have not yet re-appeared in any Bedford & District / Bedfordshire League tables.

Current Division Two club **Great Barford** after finishing sixth in season 1952-53 were twelve months later to occupy the bottom spot in the standings yet still line up in the top flight the following season 1954-55 when they placed eighth of the thirteen clubs but for reasons unknown found themselves playing Division One football (now the second flight) in season 1955-56 placing just three rugs off the bottom of the table, whilst the following season they found themselves one place lower.

This was to signal a two year gap away from the league before returning in season 1959-60 to be runners-up in Division Two.

Shefford Town A were to play just one more season placing fourth before the clubs name does not appear in the league tables again until seasons 1958-89 and 1959-60 when **Shefford Town Reserves** played both seasons in the Premier Division placing sixth and fifth respectively.

For eighth place finishers **Lidlington**, season 1952-53 was the last they were to appear in any league table until they surfaced again during the last three seasons of the fifties in Division Two to obtain a best place third finish in the last of those seasons.

The position regarding **Haynes Athletic** was even worse as following a second from bottom placing twelve months later in season 1953-54 they were never to play any further football in the Bedford & District League for the remainder of the decade.

For tenth placers, **Wrestingworth** it was also a downward trend, after improving to ninth in season 1953-54 they then found themselves bottom of the pile twelve months later and playing Division One football in season 1955-56 where they finished fifth, only to not then play at all in season 1956-57.

A return to the league was made in season 1957-58 but it was to end with a bottom place finish in Division One and relegation to Division Two finishing eighth in season 1958-59 and just one place off the bottom of the table in season 1959-60 at the end of which they were again to leave the league for a final time.

One place below **Wrestlingworth** in season 1952-53 were **Amphill Reserves** who after finishing tenth in season 1953-54 were not to appear again in the Bedford & District League during the fifties.

The one club who perhaps can claim to have played Bedford & District League top flight football for the remainder of the fifties is twelfth place **Kempston Rovers** who twelve months later placed sixth before dropping to just one place off the bottom of the table in season 1954-55, yet they retained their top flight status placing sixth in season 1955-56, third in season 1956-57 and seventh in season 1957-58.

The Rovers were to end the fifties by playing their **Reserves** team in the Bedford & District League who fared much better winning the Premier Division title in season 1958-59 and then placing second the following season behind **Potton United Reserves**.

For second from bottom **Goldington**, season 1952-53 was the last time the name of **Goldington** appeared in any Bedford & District league table until season 1961-62 when a **Goldington Electric Sports** were members of Division Four.

Bottom of the table **St Neots A** also saw their name disappear from the Bedford & District League tables after season 1952-53 until they re-emerged in Division One for the 1960-61 season whose membership also included a team bearing the name of **St Neots St Mary's** who had played Bedford & District League top flight football from season 1953-54 until finishing second from bottom in season 1959-60 to join **St Neots A** in Division One for season 1960-61.

Outside the top Division in season 1952-53 just a handful of present member clubs appear in the league tables, in Division Two, **Campton** were fourth, **Sharnbrook**, sixth and **Clifton** tenth, whilst the Division Three runners-up were **Dunton** some seven points adrift of league champions **Maulden Avenue** with **Marston Sports** third and a **Elstow Abbey Reserves** side in eighth spot (no sign of a Elstow Abbey first team in a higher division)

In Division Four, **Ickwell & Old Warden** were to finish runners-up on goal difference behind champions **Sandy Albion Reserves** whilst lower down **Great Barford Reserves** were ninth, **Flitwick Reserves**, twelfth (again like Elstow, no sign of their first team) and **Stevington Reserves** on the bottom of the table thirteenth.

Other notable interesting facts see **Sandy Albions** placing fifth in Division One whilst their **Reserves** champions of Division four were **Sandy Albion**, while in Division One membership were both **Cotton End** and **Bedford North End** who were to both figure prominently in the leagues history in future seasons.

Whilst Villages that now don't have clubs included, **Duloe & Eaton**, **Bletsoe**, **Carlton United Flitton and Greenfield** plus **Husborne Crawley** in Division Two, **Wyboston**, **Moggerhanger**, **Bromham** and **Turvey** in Division Three plus **Southill & Broom**, **Silsoe**, and **Green End United** in Division Four.

Premier Division Supported By Sportsform Round-Up 27th September to 11th October 2008.

Since our September newsletter there has been just two weekends of Premier Division Football due to the opening round of The Bedfordshire FA Senior Trophy and at the top of the league table **Campton** have now opened up a three point lead following wins at home over **AFC Kempston Town** and away at **Blunham** who having lost their 100% record prior to the **Campton** encounter seven days earlier at **Caldecote** now find themselves just seventh in the league standings.

The new occupants of the second spot are **Renhold United** following wins at **Sandy** and at home over **Wilshamstead, United** in turn being two points ahead of a now hitting form **Oakley Sports** who first came up with their first away win of the season at **Wilshamstead** before making it three wins on the bounce with a home victory over **Riseley Sports**.

Caldecote despite only having played once the previous mentioned home win over **Blunham** remain fourth ahead of the still unbeaten **Meltis Corinthians** whose lone outing saw them lose their seasons 100% tag with a draw away at **Ickwell & Old Warden** whose other outing in the period ended in defeat at **Riseley Sports** who with another home win over **Sharnbrook** now climb up into sixth spot.

Down at the other end of the league both **Bedford Sports Athletic** and **Sandy** are still without a win a comment that no longer applies to **Sharnbrook** following a victory at **Henlow** plus a home win over **Sandy**.

2008-2009 Season
Bedfordshire Football League
Premier Division supported by Sportsform

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 Campton	6	5	1	0	23	9	16
2 Renhold United	6	4	1	1	15	8	13
3 Oakley Sports	6	3	2	1	18	11	11
4 Caldecote	5	3	1	1	16	6	10
5 Meltis Corinthians	4	3	1	0	12	4	10
6 Riseley Sports	6	3	1	2	17	18	10
7 Blunham	5	3	0	2	15	9	9
8 AFC Kempston Town	5	3	0	2	15	11	9
9 Henlow	5	2	1	2	10	7	7
10 Ickwell & Old Warden	6	2	1	3	22	21	7
11 Dunton	6	2	1	3	9	13	7
12 Sharnbrook	7	2	0	5	12	18	6
13 Wilshamstead	5	1	0	4	8	14	3
14 Sandy	6	0	1	5	9	24	1
15 Bedford SA	6	0	1	5	3	31	1

Division One Round-Up, 27th September to 11th October 2008

Just like in the Premier Division Supported By Sportsform most clubs have played just the two games due in their case to the opening round of The Bedfordshire FA Junior Cup but just like in the top flight the leadership of the division remains in the same hands, **Flitwick Town** but whilst they started with a three point lead it is now down to a single point after losing their seasons 100% tag in game number seven when losing on home soil to **Meltis Albion**.

Despite this win **The Albion** who started the period in second spot have now dropped to fourth slot due to their home defeat seven days earlier at the hands of **Westoning Recreation Club** and have been overtaken by both now second place **AFC Kempston Town Reserves** who have won at both **Campton Reserves** and **Caldecote Reserves** plus third slot **Ickwell & Old Warden Reserves** who have enjoyed back to back weekend wins over **Sandy Reserves**.

Making up the top six are now in fifth place **Westoning Recreation Club** after that win at **Meltis Albion** and a home defeat against **Woburn** to edge **Kempston** on goal difference following wins at **Woburn** and at home over **Stevington**.

Elsewhere apart from **AFC Kempston Town Reserves** the only club still with a unbeaten tag this campaign is **Marston Social** who have now drawn their last five games after opening the season with an home win over **Sandy Reserves**, who now in sitting on the bottom of the table are the only division one side yet to win a game this season.

Bedfordshire Football League Division One

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 Flitwick Town	6	5	0	1	13	8	15
2 AFC Kempston Town Reserves	6	4	2	0	19	5	14
3 Ickwell & Old Warden Reserves	6	4	1	1	16	6	13
4 Meltis Albion	6	4	0	2	28	6	12
5 Westoning Recreation Club	5	3	0	2	13	8	9
6 Kempston	5	3	0	2	12	9	9
7 Marston Social	6	1	5	0	16	11	8
8 Elstow Abbey	5	2	2	1	14	12	8
9 Campton Reserves	6	2	2	2	12	15	8
10 Kempston Hammers Sports	4	1	1	2	9	7	4
11 Royal Oak Kempston	6	1	1	4	8	13	4
12 Stevington	5	1	1	3	11	17	4
13 Caldecote Reserves	5	1	1	3	8	15	4
14 Woburn	6	1	1	4	12	23	4
15 Sandy Reserves	7	0	1	6	9	45	1

Division Two Round-Up, 27th September to 11th October 2008

Likewise in Division Two, its been a period of just two league games due to The Bedfordshire FA Junior Cup but whilst league leaders **Blunham Reserves** opened the period with a lead of three points over **Clifton** that lead has now increased to one of five points over new second placers **Great Barford**, the league leaders having enjoyed an away victory at **Saffron** plus an home win over **Kings AFC** whilst **Great Barford** moved up from fourth to second slot after winning big at **Meppershall Jurassic** then opening their home campaign with a win over **Marston Shelton Rovers**.

Clifton dropping to third mainly due to a home defeat at the hands of **Potton Wanderers** before recovering with a win at **Lidlington United Sports**.

Taking over **Great Barford's** fourth place are **Meltis Corinthians Reserves** who during the period have played three games to edge above **Meppershall Jurassic** on goal difference who after that defeat by **Great Barford** hit back with a home win seven days later over **Oakley Sports Reserves**, whilst making up the top six are **Marston Shelton Rovers**, who gained a home win over **Lidlington United Sports** before losing at **Great Barford**.

Down at the other end of the table just the bottom two sides **Woburn Reserves** and **Lidlington United Sports** are yet to open their winning ways this season following wins during the period for **Saffron** at **Woburn Reserves**, **Marabese Ceramics** at **Mulberry Bush** and for **Kings AFC** at home over **Blue Chip**.

Bedfordshire Football League

Division Two

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 Blunham Reserves	6	5	1	0	24	8	16
2 Great Barford	5	3	2	0	25	7	11
3 Clifton	6	3	1	2	16	12	10
4 Meltis Corinthians Reserves	7	2	2	3	14	18	8
5 Meppershall Jurassic	5	2	2	1	13	18	8
6 Kings AFC	4	2	1	1	7	7	7
7 Marston Shelton Rovers	6	2	1	3	14	24	7
8 Potton Wanderers	3	2	0	1	12	8	6
9 Mulberry Bush	5	2	0	3	16	15	6
10 Oakley Sports Reserves	4	2	0	2	10	9	6
11 Blue Chip	5	1	2	2	14	10	5
12 Saffron	4	1	2	1	4	3	5
13 Marabese Ceramics	4	1	1	2	7	7	4
14 Lidlington United Sports	4	0	1	3	4	19	1
15 Woburn Reserves	4	0	0	4	1	16	0

Division Three Round-Up, 27th September to 11th October 2008

In Division Three and making up the full set of clubs to hold onto their league leadership during the period are **Marsh Leys** who having extended their winning ways to five games with wins at **Kempston Athletic** and at home over **Riseley Sports Reserves** now lead the table by three points from the new second placers **Leighton United** who have a game in hand over them following big wins at **Stewartby Village** and at home over **Dunton Reserves**.

Losing second spot and now fourth having had just one outing are **Westoning Recreation Club Reserves**, that outing being a win at **Caldecote Reserves** with **Three Tuns Galacticos** now sitting third and still with the divisions only unbeaten record for the season after an away win at **Sandy A** and a home win over **Kempston Athletic**.

Making up the top six are fifth place **Stewartby Village** who despite that defeat at the hands of **Leighton United** had previously netted a home win over **Wilshamstead Reserves** and after the **United** defeat won at **Flitwick Town Reserves** whilst in sixth slot are **Renhold Village** whose two outings of the period both ended all square at **Riseley Sports Reserves** and **Wilshamstead Reserves**.

Down at the bottom of the table just the bottom two sides **Kempston Athletic** and **Flitwick Town Reserves** are yet to enjoy a win this season following **Wilshamstead Reserves** netting a home win over **Flitwick Town Reserves**.

Season 2008-09 Bedfordshire Football League Division Three

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 Marsh Leys	6	5	0	1	36	15	15
2 Leighton United	5	4	0	1	27	6	12
3 Three Tuns Galacticos	6	3	3	0	19	8	12
4 Westoning Recreation Club Reserves	5	3	1	1	18	13	10
5 Stewartby Village	7	3	0	4	19	28	9
6 Renhold Village	5	2	2	1	20	15	8
7 Wilshamstead Reserves	6	1	3	2	13	17	6
8 Riseley Sports Reserves	4	1	2	1	15	11	5
9 Dunton Reserves	5	1	2	2	10	23	5
10 Meppershall AFC	3	1	1	1	12	8	4
11 Caldecote A	4	1	1	2	12	15	4
12 Sandy A	3	1	0	2	4	12	3
13 Flitwick Town Reserves	5	0	2	3	6	12	2
14 Kempston Athletic	6	0	1	5	7	35	1

Bedfordshire FA Junior Cup Second Round Draw

Kings AFC v Kempston
Caldecote A v Ickwell & Old Warden Reserves
Meppershall AFC v Sandy Reserves
Wilshamstead Reserves v USL Galacticos
Stewartby Village v Marsh Leys
AFC Kempston Town Reserves v Meltis Corinthians Reserves
Marabese Ceramics v Blue Chip
Potton Wanderers v Marston Social
Dunton Reserves v Stevington
Leighton United v Woburn
Great Barford v Meppershall Jurassic
Elstow Abbey v Riseley Sports Reserves
Westoning Recreation Club Reserves v Flitwick Town
Kempston Hammers Sports v Stopsley Baptist Church
Southcott Village RA v Farley Boys
Blunham Reserves v Meltis Albion

All games to be played on November 8th 2008 Kick Off 1.30pm

Bedfordshire FA Senior Trophy Second Round Draw

Ampthill Town v Campton
Cranfield United v Kent Athletic
Riseley Sports v Bedford Sports Athletic
Sharnbrook v AFC Dunstable
Renhold United v The 61 FC Luton
AFC Kempston Rovers v AFC Kempston Town
Totternoe v Bedford
Oakley Sports v Brache Sparta

Games to be played on Saturday 22nd November 2008, Kick Off 1.30pm or 3pm under floodlights,

Snippets

Bedfordshire Football League Charter Standards Workshop at Caldecote FC on November 3rd.

Biggleswade KO Cup, Stotfold Reserves v Ickwell & Old Warden, Wednesday 12th November Kick Off 7.45pm,

Dunton become ninth Bedfordshire Football League Club to gain Charter Standard Status.

Record number of 4493 visitors and 68991 hits onto www.bedfordshirefootballleague.co.uk during September 2008.