



Bedfordshire County **Football League**

Full Time Report Season 2017-18



Premier Division supported by Sportsform

Our congratulations go to Shefford Town & Campton in landing their first title victory since season 2011-12. The Town in the end winning the title by a margin of 12 points by ending the season with a 10 game unbeaten run during which only a 1-1 home draw against Cranfield United after the title had been sealed five days earlier prevented that statistic being a 10 game winning run. Town were to lose just four games all season, two on the road at Ickwell & Old Warden and AFC Kempston Town & Bedford College and on home soil to Flitwick Town and AFC Kempston Town & Bedford College all four by just a single goal margin. In claiming the title they netted the most goals 89 some 16 more than the second highest scorers AFC Oakley M&DH and conceded the least goals 28 some 14 less than the next best record of AFC Kempston Town & Bedford College.

Taking the silver medals for the second consecutive season were AFC Kempston Town & Bedford College whose hopes of landing the title really disappeared early doors by opening the season with just four victories from their opening 10 games. However, just two defeats from their closing 10 games saw them overhaul five other contenders to claim silver again and of course they will dine out this summer on the fact they achieved a league double over the champions.

In third spot to repeat their 2016-17 season finish were AFC Oakley M&DH whose season followed similar lines to that of our silver medalists. Failing to win any of their opening six games and losing just two of the closing 12 games.

The biggest climbers of the season were fourth place Ickwell & Old Warden with a leap of eight places from their 2016-17 season finish. Again like the two clubs immediately above them their season begun poorly with just three wins being accompanied by seven defeats from their opening 10 games until a change of management brought about a mid-season revival with just two defeats coming during their next 15 games to give them hopes of claiming the silver medals which were dashed by them picking up just four points from their closing four games to fall short of that target by four points.

In fifth spot were newly promoted Crawley Green Reserves who for the best part of the season looked real live title contenders until the closing two months of the season saw them win just three of their closing 10 games to drop out of contention.

Another club who looked potential live title contenders for the best part of the season were sixth placed Caldecote (down two spots from season 2016-17) whose hopes fell apart by

losing all of their closing five games and then brought to a conclusion with a Britannia Cup final defeat at the hands of Stevington.

For seventh place Wilstead it was a drop of two places from their 2016-17 finish. A study of their record showing perhaps it was their home form that let them down winning just 50% of their encounters, a record only achieved with three victories from their closing four outings. Their away record showing them beaten just three times on the road all season at Caldecote, Cranfield United and Shefford Town & Campton.

Last seasons champions Flitwick Town this season could fair no better than pacing eighth. Their title defence looked a possibility after they entered 2018 in second place just a point shy of the league leaders Shefford Town & Campton only to see the New Year bring about just four victories from their closing 14 games.

In ninth spot to repeat their 2016-17 finish were Cranfield United. United's season coming alive in the later stages with a haul of 27 points from their closing 12 games after earlier in the campaign claiming the seasons Bedfordshire FA Senior Trophy silver medals when defeated in the final by Totternhoe.

Up one place from season 2016-17 to make the top ten this term were Wootton Blue Cross. After winning five of their opening seven outings and to enter 2018 just five points shy of the top of the table just four more wins from their closing 13 games saw them slide down the standings.

In eleventh place were Stevington dropping three places from a 2016-17 eighth place finish. Early season form suggested perhaps a top six placing would not be out of question with just four defeats appearing before the turn of the year but 2018 saw them win just three more times although consolation was gained with the lifting of the Britannia Cup was the first time since season 1951-52 when they were joined holders with Clapham Sports with a 4-0 final victory over Caldecote.

In twelfth spot were newly promoted Queens Park Crescents. Of their five wins during the campaign just two were achieved on home soil whilst down from a eighth place finish in season 2016-17 to thirteenth this season were Marston Shelton Rovers who like Queens Park Crescents were to win on home soil just the twice all season.

In fourteenth spot were Sharnbrook having finished one higher in season 2016-17. After a delayed start to their campaign having overcome serious problems during the summer that threaten their continued membership they never really looked relegation candidates despite winning just two of their closing 15 games.

Taking up the first of the two usual relegation places were Kempston Rovers Development in repeating their 2016-17 fifteenth placing. However the club rather than play season 2017-18 in Division One supported by O'Neills have decided to next term ply their trade with the South Midlands League in their Development Division.

Bottom spot in effect being taken up by Renhold United who following internal problems within the club sadly withdrew from the league in February having gained just four points from their 20 games played to that date.

Premier Division supported by Sportsform League Table Season 2017-18

POS		P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Shefford Town & Campton First	28	20	4	4	89	28	61	64
2	AFC Kempston Town & Bedford College Fir	28	16	4	8	62	42	20	52
3	AFC Oakley M&DH (Sat) First	28	15	5	8	73	51	22	50
4	Ickwell & Old Warden First	28	16	2	10	71	65	6	49 *
5	Crawley Green Reserves	28	14	6	8	66	45	21	46 *
6	Caldecote First	28	13	7	8	63	56	7	46
7	Wilstead First	28	13	7	8	60	59	1	46
8	Flitwick Town First	28	12	4	12	60	66	-6	40
9	Cranfield United First	28	10	9	9	56	51	5	39
10	Wootton Blue Cross First	28	12	3	13	60	64	-4	39
11	Stevington First	28	10	7	11	54	52	2	36 *
12	Queens Park Crescents First	28	7	4	17	48	82	-34	25
13	Marston Shelton Rovers First	28	5	8	15	48	54	-6	23
14	Sharnbrook First	28	5	6	17	35	72	-37	18 *
15	Kempston Rovers Development	28	2	4	22	28	86	-58	6 *
16	Renhold United First [withdrawn 66%]	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-3 *
Table detail		* adjustment made							

Division One supported by O'Neills

Having finished runners up in season 2016-17 Totternhoe Reserves went one better this term to claim the league title by a margin of four points. On route to the title they were beaten just four times. Away at Cranfield United Reserves in only their second game of the season before embarking on a 15 game unbeaten run that was only halted when defeated at Flitwick Town Reserves on January 27th 2018. Their third defeat at home to Lea Sports PSG on April 18th 2018 brought to an end their 100% home record and just seven days later Cranfield United Reserves completed a league double over them to inflict defeat number four. However, their revenge was gained over United when the Reds claimed a penalty shoot-out Centenary Cup Final win over them to duly land a league and cup double. With Football Association rules not allowing a club to have two teams competing at Level 7 (their first team play in Division Two of the South Midlands League) they will for the second season running be denied the chance to ply their trade in our top division next term.

In runners up spot and collecting the silver medals were last seasons Division Two champions Riseley Sports. The Sportsman going to Totternhoe Reserves on April 28th knowing a draw and a point or better from their last game at Shefford Town & Campton Reserves the following weekend would clinch them a second successive title. Alas they were beaten 3-2. Silver medals were also to come their way in the Bedfordshire FA Intermediate Cup when defeated in the final by AFC Dunstable U21.

Jumping up from a fifth place finish in season 2016-17 to claim third spot were AFC Kempston Town & Bedford College Reserves. Defeats on the road in five of their closing six away fixtures that included losses at Totternhoe Reserves and Riseley Sports scuppering any chance of a top two finish.

In fourth spot were the 2016-17 Division Two four placers Cranfield United Reserves. The United of course claiming a league double over the champions and defeated just twice on home soil all season at the hands of Wixams in their opening game of the season and by Riseley Sports in mid-November before ending the season unbeaten in their last eight home games of which seven were won. Of course as previously mentioned they also collected this seasons Centenary Cup silver medals.

Having finished runners-up in Division Two in season 2016-17 Wixams were the fifth place finishers. Early season form suggested perhaps a title challenge was on the cards but five defeats on the road in their last eight away games saw them slip down the standings and out of contention.

Making up the top six were Lea Sports PSG who had finished third in division two in season 2016-17. Just three wins from their opening eight games never really saw them in the promotion race but after losing at home to Cranfield United Reserves in mid-October they then remained unbeaten on home soil for the remainder of the season. On the cup front they were once again to make the Semi-final stages of the Hertfordshire Junior Cup.

In seventh spot having also gained promotion via their fifth place division two finish in season 2016-17 were Flitwick Town Reserves. A higher finish being down to the fact that they collected just 10 points on the road all season whilst at home they were defeated just the twice by Wixams and Biggleswade FC Reserves.

Having been relegated from the Premier Division supported by Sportsform at the end of season 2016-17 Sandy could fair no better than taking up eighth spot. Like Flitwick Town Reserves it was all down to their away form where just 11 points were collected compared to losing just three times on home soil at Bedford Road, all of which came in their opening six games against Riseley Sports, Lea Sports PSG and Totternhoe Reserves. Cup success however was to come their way in the lifting of the East Beds Charity Cup with a final tie win over Elstow Abbey.

In ninth spot one place up from a tenth placing in season 2016-17 were Cople & Bedford SA. Their season being a one of two halves. Just three wins before the turn of 2018 and just two defeats thereafter.

Making up the top ten were league newcomers Biggleswade FC Reserves. Like Cople their season being one of two halves. Just three wins before Xmas and thereafter just three defeats.

Having finished seventh in season 2016-17 Shefford Town & Campton Reserves were to drop to eleventh this term. Amazing losing just twice on home soil against AFC Kempston Town & Bedford College Reserves and Totternhoe Reserves but being defeated in all of their 13 away games.

The biggest sliders however were Henlow. Fourth in season 2016-17 and down to twelfth this term. All of which saw them collect just 26 points of which 50% were collected from their opening seven fixtures after which they failed to win on the road for the rest of the season and only won four times on home soil.

Sitting in the second from bottom placing after a eighth place finish in season 2016-17 were

The 61 FC Luton Reserves. The 61 Boys like Shefford Town & Campton Reserves let down by their away form has having drew their opening encounter at Biggleswade FC Reserves they duly lost their next 12 trips on the road and collected just three wins on home soil over Biggleswade FC Reserves, Meltis Albion and Shefford Town & Campton Reserves.

The bottom spot taken up by the revamped Meltis Albion. Albion's torrid season seeing them win just twice on home soil against Shefford Town & Campton Reserves and The 61 FC Luton Reserves and like Shefford Town & Campton Reserves losing all of their 13 away games.

Division One supported by O'Neills League Table Season 2017-18.

POS		P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Totternhoe Reserves	26	20	2	4	102	34	68	62
2	Riseley Sports First	26	18	4	4	78	34	44	58
3	AFC Kempston Town & Bedford College Rese	26	16	2	8	88	55	33	50
4	Cranfield United Reserves	26	15	4	7	59	41	18	49
5	Wixams First	26	16	1	9	72	55	17	49
6	Lea Sports PSG (Saturday) First	26	15	2	9	56	53	3	47
7	Flitwick Town Reserves	26	11	4	11	56	60	-4	37
8	Sandy First	26	11	4	11	67	55	12	36 *
9	Cople & Bedford SA First	26	10	6	10	73	65	8	35 *
10	Biggleswade Reserves	26	8	6	12	54	60	-6	30
11	Shefford Town & Campton Reserves	26	8	2	16	67	68	-1	26
12	Henlow First	26	8	4	14	52	57	-5	26 *
13	The 61 FC (Luton) Reserves	26	3	1	22	32	118	-86	10
14	Meltis Albion First	26	2	0	24	24	125	-101	5 *
	Table detail	* adjustment made							

Division Two

The Division Two league title was to go the way of Bedford Albion who in the previous season had claimed the bronze medal position in Division Three. Albion were to lose three of their opening four fixtures before embarking on a season that was to see them lose just the once more by a single goal at Caldecote Reserves in mid-November in finishing the season on a unbeaten 15 game run of which the last eight were won. Albion however were to just fail to collect a cup and league double when defeated 2-1 in the final of the Bedfordshire FA Junior Cup by Henlow Reserves.

In the runners-up spot some seven points adrift were Wilstead Reserves. Their success mainly down to winning 11 of the 12 home games suffering only defeat at the hands of the champions in mid-April. Whilst they struck gold in claiming this seasons Jubilee Cup with a penalty shoot-out win over Henlow Reserves.

Having gained promotion from Division four the previous season Henlow Reserves were major title contenders until away losses at Houghton Athletic and Wilstead Reserves in their last two trips on the road saw them fall one point shy of the boys from Jubilee Close and

having to settle for third spot. Their consolation being the previous mentioned Bedfordshire FA Junior Cup success over Bedford Albion.

Division Two League Table Season 2017-18

POS		P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Bedford Albion First	24	19	2	3	70	29	41	59
2	Wilstead Reserves	24	17	1	6	83	44	39	52
3	Henlow Reserves	24	16	3	5	81	45	36	51
4	Marston Shelton Rovers Reserves	24	14	3	7	69	52	17	40 *
5	Elstow Abbey First	24	11	4	9	40	41	-1	37
6	Caldecote Reserves	24	10	5	9	50	46	4	34 *
7	Houghton Athletic First	24	9	4	11	39	48	-9	29 *
8	CS Rovers First	24	9	1	14	56	75	-19	28
9	AFC Oakley M&DH (Sat) Reserves	24	8	2	14	29	59	-30	25 *
10	Atletico Europa First	24	7	3	14	44	66	-22	23 *
11	Sundon Park Rovers First	24	5	7	12	38	67	-29	22
12	Luton Leagrave AFC First	24	5	3	16	51	74	-23	18
13	Westoning First	24	5	4	15	43	47	-4	7 *
14	Wixams Wanderers [withdrawn 57%]	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-1 *
15	Renhold United Res [withdrawn 69%]	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-4 *

[Table detail](#)

* adjustment made

Taking up fourth spot but some 11 points adrift of the boys from Groveside were Marston Shelton Rovers Reserves. Their season starting poorly with five defeats arriving in their opening seven outings before going onto losing just three more times all season, at home to Wilstead Reserves in late April and on the road at AFC Oakley M&DH Reserves in late November and at Atletico Europa in late March.

For relegated Elstow Abbey it was position number five. A better placing being not made possible by winning just four times on home soil all season compared to losing just three times on the road all season. Abbey however were to gain silver in this season East Beds Charity Cup when beaten in the final tie by Sandy FC.

Making up the top six against a seventh place 2016-17 season finish were Caldecote Reserves. A position mainly down to enjoying an eight game unbeaten run from the turn of the New Year. In seventh spot up two places from their 2016-17 finish were Houghton Athletic. The Athletic having a funny old season starting the campaign on a seven game unbeaten run, ending the season by winning three of their last four games yet in between winning just the four times.

For the 2016-17 season Division Four champions CS Rovers it was an eighth place finish. Their away record of winning just three times on the road at Caldecote Reserves, AFC Oakley M&DH Reserves and Sundon Park Rovers preventing them too challenge for a top six finish.

Down one place from an eighth place finish in season 2016-17 to take up ninth spot were AFC Oakley M&DH Reserves. A higher finish looked likely at the turn of the year before their closing 12 games brought them just three wins and even then two of those were awarded

to them for breach of rules by their opposition.

In tenth spot down four places from a sixth place 2016-17 season finish were Atletico Europa. All of which can be explained by losing 10 of their 12 away games and winning at just CS Rovers in early October and at Houghton Athletic in early April.

For Sundon Park Rovers it was a drop of one place from a top ten finish in 2016-17 to eleventh this campaign. It was game number 10 before they achieved their opening win of the season at home against Luton Leagrave AFC which was to see them enjoy a mid-season six game unbeaten run before their season ended with just three more victories.

Twelfth spot being taken up by league newcomers Luton Leagrave AFC. Just five wins coming their way all season but the highlight of which was surely their 11-3 win at CS Rovers in early February.

In unlucky thirteenth spot were Westoning who quite frankly just chucked in the towel in failing to fulfill seven of their closing eight games which when you consider they had lost just one of their previous eight games is to say the least mind boggling.

The other two sides to fail also to reach the finishing line were league newcomers Wixam Wanderers who withdrew their membership in late January and Renhold United Reserves who fell the same way a month later.

Division Three

Having been relegated from Division Two at the end of season 2016-17 Kempston Athletic were to bounce straight back to lift the Division Three title by a margin of some nine points. The Athletic losing just twice all season, at home to Clifton on the opening day of the season and then on home soil to Stevington Reserves at the end of October thereafter they then remained unbeaten in their next 19 outings in which 17 of whose games were won. In doing so they netted 118 goals the most by any side in all four division of the Bedfordshire County Football League in season 2017-18.

Taking the runners-up spot to improve on their 2016-17 season fourth place finish were Harlington. Three defeats on the bounce between late September and early October was then followed by an unbeaten run of 16 games until the lost at Black Swan (Luton) in mid-April before ending the season on a four game unbeaten run.

Repeating their third place 2016-17 season finish were Clifton. The boys from Whiston Crescent remaining unbeaten on home soil all season and losing just the three times on the road at Sandy Reserves in mid-October, at Wootton Village in early February and at Harlington in late April.

In fourth spot were the previous seasons third place club Clifton. Repeating their third place 2016-17 season finish were Clifton. The boys from Whiston Crescent remaining unbeaten on home soil all season and losing just the four times on the road at Sandy Reserves in mid-October, at Wootton Village in early February and at Harlington and Black Swan in late April.

Caldecote A having been relegated at the end of season 2016-17 season claimed fifth spot. After winning only three of their opening eight games they then went on a nine game unbeaten run between mid-November and late March until their season faded away with five defeats in their closing 10 games.

Division Three League Table Season 2017-18

POS		P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Kempston Athletic First	28	23	3	2	118	50	68	72
2	Harlington First	28	20	3	5	92	47	45	63
3	Black Swan (Luton)	28	18	2	8	93	50	43	56
4	Clifton First	28	16	8	4	87	54	33	56
5	Caldecote 'A'	28	14	7	7	65	57	8	48 *
6	Bedford Albion Reserves	28	13	8	7	71	47	24	46 *
7	Shefford Town & Campton 'A'	28	13	3	12	60	49	11	42
8	Lidlington United Sports Club First	28	13	3	12	67	62	5	42
9	Sandy Reserves	28	13	3	12	65	66	-1	42
10	AFC Kempston Town & Bedford College 'A'	28	8	6	14	57	108	-51	30
11	Flitwick Town 'A'	28	8	4	16	59	67	-8	23 *
12	Wootton Village First	28	6	2	20	36	80	-44	20
13	Stevington Reserves	28	6	2	20	49	81	-32	13 *
14	Dinamo Flitwick First	28	5	2	21	47	115	-68	13 *
15	White Eagles First	28	6	0	22	55	88	-33	7 *

[Table detail](#)

* adjustment made

Making up the top six were league newcomers Bedford Albion Reserves. A series of eight draws preventing them from making a serious challenge to get into the promotion race.

Also relegated from Division two at the end of 2016-17 were Shefford Town & Campton A whose season fell apart in the middle where just two wins were claimed from 11 games between mid-December and early April until they concluded the season by losing just the once at home at Kempston Athletic in their closing seven games to leave them in seventh place.

Up into eighth spot from a tenth place 2016-17 season (there were only 10 teams in season 2016-17) were Lidlington United Sports. Eight of their 13 wins coming prior to Xmas before just five victories followed in the New Year.

Having finished eighth out of 10 in season 2016-17 Sandy Reserves this campaign placed ninth of 15. Following a slow start with four wins from their opening 14 games the second half of the season was to see them just lose the twice at Bedford Albion Reserves and Shefford Town A and win all seven of their home games at Bedford Road.

Tenth place AFC Kempston Town & Bedford College A had finished fifth in season 2016-17 and unlike Sandy they had started well, beaten just four times before Xmas but the turn of the New Year saw them concluded their season with just three wins from their closing 13 games.

For Wootton Village it was an eleventh place finish. Just one win coming from their opening

17 games until a run of three wins and a draw at the turn of the year just about kept them away from the basement of the standings.

In third from bottom spot were Stevington Reserves who had finished second from bottom in season 2016-17. However their season of just six wins did include a 5-0 victory at champions Kempston Athletic to record their first win of the season on October 28th.

For second from bottom Dinamo Flitwick it was just five wins all season, four on home soil or should that be home plastic and just one on the road at Wotton Village who were among their four home victims.

The basement spot being occupied by White Eagles. Who were the only Bedfordshire County League side in all four divisions not to draw a game in season 2017-18.



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