



Bedfordshire County **Football League**

Full Time Report Season 2018-19



Premier Division supported by Sportsform

Our congratulations go out to Shefford Town & Campton in retaining their Premier Division supported by Sportsform title. The Town following the well documented Crawley Green saga which necessitated them duly having to collect a point in their final game of the season at Marston Shelton Rovers to land the title on goal difference from Cranfield United. Yet one cannot claim they were not worthy winners losing just twice all season at home to AFC Oakley M&DH in late December and away at Stevington in early February in a journey that saw them netted the highest amount of goals in the division (76) and conceded the least (22). For good measure they completed a league and cup double in lifting the Britannia Cup with a 1-0 final victory over Wilstead. We now also say goodbye to them and send our best wishes has they embark upon life at Level 6 next season in the South Midlands Football League.

Premier Division supported by Sportsform Final League Table Season 2018-19

POS		P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Shefford Town & Campton First	26	19	5	2	76	22	54	62
2	Cranfield United First	26	19	5	2	70	23	47	62
3	Marston Shelton Rovers First	26	12	7	7	59	56	3	43
4	Stevington First	26	12	5	9	67	48	19	41
5	Queens Park Crescents First	26	12	5	9	62	51	11	41
6	Wootton Blue Cross First	26	11	6	9	49	50	-1	39
7	Crawley Green Reserves	26	11	5	10	57	46	11	37 *
8	Riseley Sports First	26	9	5	12	46	59	-13	32
9	Wilstead First	26	9	4	13	67	68	-1	31
10	Flitwick Town First	26	9	4	13	53	61	-8	31
11	Ickwell & Old Warden First	26	9	3	14	61	85	-24	30
12	AFC Oakley M&DH (Sat) First	26	8	5	13	59	63	-4	29
13	AFC Kempston Town & Bedford College First	26	5	4	17	43	77	-34	19
14	Caldecote First	26	4	3	19	32	92	-60	15
15	Renhold United First [withdrawn 23%]	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
16	Sharnbrook First [withdrawn 46%]	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-3 *

[Table detail](#)

* adjustment made

In collecting the silver medals Cranfield United having finished ninth in season 2017-18 also lost just the twice, away at Ickwell & Old Warden in early January and at home to the champions just 14 days later before finishing the season on a 10 game unbeaten run in which points were just dropped in two of those games in drawing away at Shefford Town & Campton and at home to Wootton Blue Cross.

In third spot and thus claiming the most improved title having finished 13th in season 2017-18 were Marston Shelton Rovers. A feat more notable when you consider in their opening 11 games they won just the once at Riseley Sports before ending the season by losing just one of their 15 games at Cranfield United in late February.

In fourth spot up seven places from a 2017-18 season 11th place finish were Stevington. Again a fine achievement after winning just one of their opening nine games. Yet they will perhaps remember the season best for becoming the first Bedfordshire County Football League club to collect the Bedfordshire FA Senior Trophy in defeating fellow league members Wilstead 4-0 in the final.

Also up seven places from their 2017-18 season 12th place finish to claim fifth spot were Queens Park Crescents. The Crescents failing to get any closer mainly due to their poor away record which saw them win just the four times against a home record of losing just the three times. Making up the top six and improving four places from a 10th place 2017-18 finish were Wootton Blue Cross. Their lack of goal power being their downfall with only Riseley Sports, AFC Kempston Town & Bedford College plus Caldecote scoring less goals.

Down two places from a fifth place 2017-18 season finish in seventh spot were Crawley Green Reserves. After losing their opening two games they become serious title contenders by winning seven of their next eight games (losing just 2-1 at Shefford Town & Campton) before they dropped away in winning just four of their closing 17 games.

For the newly promoted Riseley Sports it was a more than respectable eighth place finish. The Sportsmen collecting seven of their nine victories in the New Year to steer them well clear of the drop zone and place a well done sticker on their end of season report card.

In ninth place down two places from a 2017-18 season 7th place finish were Wilstead. Yet they will take consolation from the fact that they were the beaten finalists in both the Bedfordshire FA Senior Trophy and the Britannia Cup.

Champions just two seasons ago Flitwick Town after a 2017-18 season 8th place finish dropped again this term to take up 10th place. The winning of just four home games, two of those coming in their closing three games explains all. Also on the drop from third place last season to 11th place this season were Ickwell & Old Warden, a run of eight straight defeats on the road to end the season scuppering their hopes of a top six finish.

Whilst dropping from a 3rd place 2017-18 season finish to place only 12th were AFC Oakley M&DH. Like Ickwell & Old Warden they fell away in the second part of the season failing to win any of their last 10 games and gaining just the three draws along the way.

Yet the biggest droppers of the season were AFC Kempston Town & Bedford College who had taken the silver medals in the past two seasons. Just two home wins all season and the second lowest goalscorers tells you all you need to know as they finished 10 points adrift of 12th place AFC Oakley M&DH in 13th place.

Of the 14 clubs to finish the season in 14th place were last seasons 6th place Caldecote. Just four wins all season, the lowest number of goals scored (32) and the most conceded (92) tells their tale of woe.

The two clubs to fail to complete the season being Renhold United who lasted just seven games and Sharnbrook who folded in December some 13 games into the campaign having collected just one point on the opening day of the season before their departure.

Division One supported by O'Neills

Having finished 10th of the 14 teams in season 2017-18 Biggleswade FC Reserves this term totally transformed their fortunes to land the Division One supported by O'Neills league title by a single point from Bedford Albion. Their season was to commence with just five wins from their opening 11 games but then close on a 17 games unbeaten run of which 15 of those games were won. To add icing to the cake they also completed the double by lifting the Centenary Cup with a 7-1 final victory over Cople & Bedford SA.

For silver medalists Bedford Albion who had landed the Division Two title in season 2017-18 it was the opposite start to the campaign winning their opening 11 games albeit if one of those was originally lost but awarded to them due to their opposition breaching league rules before they dropped their first points of the season in drawing at Shefford Town & Campton Reserves in early December. However, their seasons fate was in effect settled in someways when they suffered their only home defeat and their first of only three during the campaign to Biggleswade FC Reserves on January 12th and then only sharing the points in the return game just seven days later.

In third spot one place up from season 2017-18 were Cranfield United Reserves. United losing just the once on the road all season at Bedford Albion and being defeated just the three times on home soil against both of the top two plus Henlow.

Junping up from a 11th place finish in season 2017-18 to fourth spot this term were Shefford Town & Campton Reserves. Unbeaten in their opening nine games before losing at home to Henlow in early November they were to suffer just four more defeats all season, on the road at Bedford Albion and Henlow plus on home soil to Biggleswade FC Reserves and Cranfield United Reserves.

The final table will show Wixams repeated their 5th place finish of season but in effect they withdrew from the league in early April just two games from the end of their campaign. Making up the top six some six places higher than in season 2017-18 were Henlow yet their season will best be remembered for their cup exploits being losing Bedfordshire FA Intermediate finalists against Dunstable Town U21 before winning the East Beds Charity Cup with a 3-0 final win over Shefford Town & Campton Reserves.

For last seasons champions Totternhoe Reserves it was a drop to seventh spot this term in a disappointing season that saw them only look like getting into the title when between October 13th and December 1st they put together a eight game unbeaten run of which five of those games were victories.

In eighth place up one spot from season 2017-18 were Cople & Bedford SA. Losing just three times on home soil all campaign they only won once on the road at Henlow in late January before ending their season with three consecutive wins at Wilstead Reserves, Sandy Reserves and AFC Kempston Town & Bedford College Reserves the trio of teams that finished the season in the bottom three spots.

For league newcomers Christians in Sport (Luton) it was a eleventh place finish. Their league highlights perhaps being on the road with a 3-1 victory at Biggleswade FC Reserves and away from the league their journey into the last 16 of the National Christians Cup.

For last seasons seventh place Flitwick Town Reserves it was a drop to twelfth spot this season. Just one win on the road at Wilstead Reserves and a draw at Christians in Sports (Luton) seeing them pick up just four away points all season against the 20 points collected on home soil. Yet taking a even worse tumble were last seasons third place AFC Kempston Town & Bedford College Reserves to spot number 13. The Town winning just two and losing 16 of their opening 18 games before they closed the season collecting 14 points from their closing 10 games of which four of those were won.

In place 14 were last seasons Division Two runners-up Wilstead Reserves who won just the five times all season. Whilst in place number 15 were Sandy down from a eighth place finish in season 2017-18. The Bedford Road side winning just the once all season and ending the season on a 20 games losing run. Yet hats off to them for seeing the season out.

The 16th starter being league newcomers Farley Boys who threw the towel in just five games into the season

Division One supported by O'Neills Final League Table Season 2018-19

POS		P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Biggleswade Reserves	28	21	3	4	100	38	62	66
2	Bedford Albion FC First	28	20	5	3	91	27	64	65
3	Cranfield United Reserves	28	18	6	4	94	47	47	60
4	Shefford Town & Campton Reserves	27	15	7	5	78	34	44	52
5	Wixams First	28	15	2	11	71	55	16	46 *
6	Henlow First	28	14	3	11	56	46	10	45
7	Totternhoe Reserves	28	13	5	10	55	48	7	44
8	Cople & Bedford SA First	28	13	3	12	63	56	7	42
9	Lea Sports PSG (Saturday) First	28	11	6	11	60	66	-6	39
10	The 61 FC (Luton) Reserves	28	11	4	13	49	58	-9	37
11	Christians In Sport (Luton) First	28	9	6	13	50	73	-23	33
12	Flitwick Town Reserves	28	7	3	18	51	75	-24	24
13	AFC Kempston Town & Bedford College Rese	28	6	2	20	41	93	-52	19 *
14	Wilstead Reserves	27	5	3	19	43	93	-50	13 *
15	Sandy First	28	1	2	25	26	119	-93	2 *
16	Farley Boys First [withdrawn 16%]	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Table detail		* adjustment made							

Wilstead Reserves v Shefford Town & Campton Reserves game ruled null and void.

Division Two supported by Hy-Pro

Having finished fifth in season 2017-18 Elstow Abbey this term continued their rise back up the Bedfordshire County Football League ladder by lifting the Division Two supported by Hy-Pro crown. The Abbey were not to lose until game number 21 of the season when beaten on March 30th at Houghton Athletic and clinched the title with a 5-2 home win over Sporting Lewsey Park on May 1st who they had beaten 7-1 on their own batch just 14 days earlier.

However with the title won they were to lose their closing two games to allow Sporting Lewsey Park to move to within three points of them in the final league standings.

For the silver medalists Sporting Lewsey Park the record book will show they netted the most wins (24) one better than the Abbey and net the most goals (140) some 25 more than the next best Elstow Abbey who in turn netted 27 more than the third best Atletico Europa. Whilst having been promoted from Division Three at the end of season 2017-18 the bronze medal position went to Kempston Athletic. The Athletic having looked real championship contenders early doors losing just one and drawing two of their opening 14 games before the turn of the year saw them win just six times in 18 outings. However their season did have a champagne finish with the winning of the Jubilee Cup via a 5-1 final victory over CS Rovers.

Taking up fourth spot having finished seventh in season 2017-18 were Houghton Athletic who like Kempston Athletic started the season well enough losing just four of their opening 20 games before falling away with just four wins in their closing 10 encounters. Whilst also improving from a tenth place 2017-18 season finish to take up fifth place were Atletico Europa. Their failure to get closer to the promotion race mainly down to the fact that they lost six times on home soil against being beaten just three times on the road.

Making up the top six were Meltis Albion who had suffered relegation in season 2017-18. Again they started the season in fine fettle dropping just four points in their opening 13 games with an away draw at Elstow Abbey and a home defeat at the hands of Sporting Lewsey Park before the month of January saw them defeated in all of their three fixtures and their season fall away with just another six wins (two of them awarded to them) from their closing 15 games.

For league newcomers St Joseph (Saturday) it was a seventh place finish. St Joes unlike those immediately above them being a second half of the season club claiming 10 of their seasons 15 wins in the year of 2019. In eighth place three spots higher than in 2017-18 were Sundon Park Rovers. The Rovers again being a second half of the season club winning just three times in 2018 before 2019 saw them claim another 11 victories including win eight of their last nine outings.

Another club to jump three places from their 2017-18 finish to take up ninth spot were Luton Leagrave AFC. Their seasons 13 wins coming seven at home and 6 away. Whilst for newly promoted Clifton it was a tenth place finish. Seven wins in their opening 11 starts suggested a very good season was on the cards before they collected just one point from their next six outings to slip down the league standings only to then recover in winning five of their last seven home games to take them to that top 10 placing.

In eleventh place three spots down from last season 2017-18 were CS Rovers but due to their cup exploits of being beaten finalists in both the Bedfordshire FA Junior Cup and Jubilee Cup they were forced to cram in their last 11 league games inside a period of just 38 days during which they also played their two Cup Finals.

Also dropping three places to finish twelfth were AFC Oakley M&DH Reserves. Again they were another side to enjoy a better close to the season than start by winning nine, drawing three and losing just three of their last 15 games. In thirteenth spot down seven places below their 2017-18 season finish were Caldecote Reserves. Their low placing mainly down to their form on the road with 12 points from four victories being collected all season.

Taking up place number 14 were newly promoted Black Swan (Luton) who like Caldecote Reserves failed to travel well winning just twice and drawing just twice in their 16 outings. Yet the biggest droppers of the season were Marston Shelton Rovers Reserves down into place number 15 having finished fourth twelve months previous. Just seven points collected on the road explaining their season of woe.

The final league table will show in second from bottom place FC Kokan who folded in mid-November leaving on bottom spot Unite MK Reserves who won just the once all season away at Caldecote Reserves in early December and failed to win any of their 16 home encounters.

Division Two supported by Hy-Pro Final League Table Season 2018-19

POS		P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Elstow Abbey First	32	23	6	3	115	44	71	75
2	Sporting Lewsey Park First	32	24	3	5	140	57	83	72 *
3	Kempston Athletic First	32	17	9	6	80	46	34	60
4	Houghton Athletic Saturday	32	18	5	9	84	49	35	59
5	Atletico Europa First	32	17	6	9	88	66	22	57
6	Meltis Albion First	31	17	5	9	76	53	23	55 *
7	St Josephs (Saturday) First	32	15	5	12	74	70	4	49 *
8	Sundon Park Rovers First	32	14	4	14	69	69	0	46
9	Luton Leagrave AFC First	31	13	6	12	69	57	12	45
10	Clifton First	31	14	2	15	66	56	10	44
11	CS Rovers First	32	12	4	16	74	89	-15	39 *
12	AFC Oakley M&DH (Sat) Reserves	32	11	4	17	82	110	-28	36 *
13	Caldecote Reserves	32	12	1	19	69	90	-21	34 *
14	Black Swan (Luton) First	31	12	4	15	71	59	12	31 *
15	Marston Shelton Rovers Reserves	32	8	2	22	47	112	-65	22 *
16	M&DH Clapham Sports Saturday First	32	6	2	24	46	141	-95	19 *
17	FC Kokan First [withdrawn 32%]	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-6 *
18	Unite MK Reserves	32	1	4	27	34	116	-82	-6 *

[Table detail](#)

* adjustment made

Black Swan v Clifton: Game not played.

Meltis Albion v Luton Leagrave AFC game deemed null and void.

Division Three supported by Hy-Pro

The Division Three supported by Hy-Pro crown was to go to Pines (Luton) in what can only be described as a one horse race, they were to win the title by some 20 points and lose just the twice all season, losing their seasons 100% record only in game number 18 when defeated at Harlington Juniors in late February and then beaten at home by Real Haynes a month later. To emphasis their superiority they netted the most goals (151) some 49 more than the next best Bedford Albion Reserves and conceded the least goals (27) some nine better than the second best Thurleigh. Having lifted the league title they then capped their fine season by collecting a seasons double in lifting the Watson Shield with a 2-1 victory over Stevington Reserves.

The silver medals were to go the way of league newcomers Thurleigh. A slow start to the campaign saw them lose three of their opening six outings until they clicked into gear losing just another four times all season. However they did strike gold in the Bedfordshire FA Junior Cup with a penalty shoot-out final win over CS Rovers following a goalless opening 90 minutes.

In third spot were Bedford Albion Reserves. The Albion getting their season underway by being unbeaten in their opening 15 outings albeit six of those games ending in draws until back to back defeats in early January to Harlington Juniors signalled perhaps it was not to be their season and so it proved despite them winning eight of their last 12 games as their four defeats came against Real Haynes (away) at home to Thurleigh and twice to the Pines (Luton) thus denying them the silver medals.

In fourth place having finished seventh in season 2017-18 were Shefford Town & Campton A. An eight game unbeaten run between mid-September and mid-November plus six victories from their last eight outings seeing climb to within a point of Bedford Albion Reserves come the close of the season.

In fifth spot were Real Haynes just six points short of the silver medals which were perhaps lost by losing three of their last five home games be they against Pines (Luton) Shefford Town & Campton A and Thurleigh.

Making up the top six having finished 13th in season 2017-18 were Stevington Reserves who after losing six of their opening eight outings started to climb the standings and with 11 wins from their last 12 outings made the top six plus collected the Watson Shield silver medals in taking Pines (Luton) to the wire in an epic final contest.

The next two spots being taken up by league newcomers Harlington Juniors (7th) and FC Polonia (8th) the Juniors after losing eight of their opening 12 games then only losing another four all season. Whilst FC most enjoyable period of the season was in October and November when they put together a six game unbeaten run in which five of those games were won.

Dropping from a last season placing of eighth to ninth this season were Lidlington United Sports. The Sports having a very mixed season. Without a win in their opening five games their next 11 outings saw them win eight, draw two and lose just the once before slumping again to win just four of their last 11 encounters.

Making the top 10 were league newcomers Wixams Wanderers who having won four of their opening five games will perhaps feel they could have done better. In eleventh place were Wootton Village one up from their 2017-18 season finish. A run of five straight away defeats to close the season saw them slipping them down the standings which at one stage gave hope of a top six finish.

For league newcomers Square FC it was placing number 12. the highlight of their season perhaps being a double netted over local rivals FC Polonia (Luton) which enabled them to finish a point clear of Flitwick Town A (11th in season 2017-18) the Town winning just the eight times, five at home and three on the road.

The final league table will show Dinamo Flitwick in 14th place despite them making the strange decision to withdraw from the league some two games from the end of the season

having lost nine of their previous 10 games. Whilst for Real Haynes Reserves it was spot number 15 in a season where they were defeated in all of their 28 outings but in a season where they deserve total respect and admiration for completing their fixtures.

A feat Sandy Reserves failed to do when withdrawing from the league in late November having failed to win any of the 13 games played.

Division Three supported by Hy-Pro Final League Table Season 2018-19

POS		P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Pines (Luton) First	28	26	0	2	151	27	124	78
2	Thurleigh First	28	19	2	7	91	36	55	58 *
3	Bedford Albion FC Reserves	28	16	6	6	102	48	54	54
4	Shefford Town & Campton 'A'	28	17	2	9	70	51	19	53
5	Real Haynes First	27	16	4	7	100	51	49	52
6	Stevington Reserves	28	15	1	12	66	53	13	45 *
7	Harlington Juniors First	28	15	1	12	84	84	0	44 *
8	FC Polonia (Luton) First	28	14	2	12	75	61	14	43 *
9	Lidlington United Sports Club First	28	12	3	13	66	68	-2	39
10	Wixams Wanderers First	28	13	1	14	83	91	-8	39 *
11	Wootton Village First	28	11	3	14	39	62	-23	36
12	Square First	28	8	0	20	41	91	-50	24
13	Flitwick Town 'A'	27	8	1	18	51	92	-41	23 *
14	Dinamo Flitwick First	28	5	2	21	54	90	-36	17
15	Real Haynes Reserves	28	0	0	28	11	179	-168	-1 *
16	Sandy Reserves [withdrawn 43%]	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-2 *
Table detail		* adjustment made							

Real Haynes v Flitwick Town A game demmed null and void.