

Bedfordshire Football League
August 2007 Newsletter

With August now upon us our attention is now focused on the forthcoming 2007-08 season and just like in every other league, everyone is now beginning to fathom out just which clubs are likely to be bringing out the champagne bottles come next May and which clubs are set for a long hard winter, so to raise a little debate and comment, we open our seasons newsletter with a preview of what might lay ahead in each of our divisions.

Premier Division Supported By McGirl Money Management 2007-08 Preview

AFC Kempston Town Town have progressed up the league table in each of the last four seasons to finish runners-up last term, but could well find that final extra step to the league title a tough ask this season.

Verdict Likely top six finishers without being serious title contenders.

Bluham Have finished in the top three places twice since returning to the top flight in season 2005/6, very much the Dads Army side of the leading title contenders who as always will make every single club battle to take points off of them especially on their own ground

Verdict Poor starts to both of their last two campaigns have left them playing catch up and whilst you would never rule them out as possible title winners are again likely to fall just short of the top spot.

Caldecote After a bright start last season they faded away somewhat surprisingly to only finish seventh and are hoping a change of management will see them return to their former glories as they seek a record equalling eighth league title.

Verdict Serious title contenders with a top three finish very much on the cards.

Campton Have being in the top five in each of the past five seasons including being runners-up twice but are still looking for their first ever top flight title.

Verdict Top three finish very much on the cards again this term with the title not beyond them.

Ickwell & Old Warden Placed in the top six in each of the last five seasons, with their title hopes ruined in the past two seasons by drawing far to many games.

Verdict Likely to have to settle for a minor spot again this season.

Luton Borough Finished last season with seven wins and two draws from their closing twelve games to climb up into tenth spot and will be looking to keep the progress going again this term.

Verdict Will do well to finish in the top half of the table and more likely to have a relegation battle on their hands than a championship battle.

Meltis Corinthians Last seasons Sportsform Division One runaway champions who seek to establish themselves in their first taste of top flight football.

Verdict Don't rule out a top six finish but a mid-table placing more likely.

Oakley Sports Fine second half to the season last term saw them pull clear of the relegation zone and under new manager Jim Burke will be looking for better times ahead.

Verdict Likely to have to settle for a mid-table finish.

Renhold United Returning after a season away from the league and with a likely influx of ex Goldington Lions and Three Horseshoes Renhold players amongst their ranks should find their feet quite quickly.

Verdict Mid-table to lower half finish on the cards.

Riseley Sports After a top six finish in season 2004/05 have dropped into the bottom half of the table in each of the last two seasons and will need to stem the follow to prevent having a relegation battle on their hands.

Verdict A much better season looks on the cards and could well again push for a top six placing rather than get into the relegation mix

Sandy Enjoyed their best season for many a season last term in finishing fifth and will be looking to at least repeat again this term.

Verdict Definitely top six material and could well be up to lifting the league title.

Sharnbrook Just beat the drop last season after gaining promotion and another tough season looks to be on the cards.

Verdict likely to be among the clubs fighting out a battle to beat the drop into Division One.

Westoning Recreation Club Last seasons champions who will not give up their crown easily and always a tough side to beat on their home patch.

Verdict Repeat title challenge very much on the cards.

Wilshamstead Been in the top half of the table in each of the last two seasons since gaining promotion in season 2004/05, ended last season on a unbeaten run of ten games to give them hope for another decent campaign this season.

Verdict Mid-table finish looking likely outcome.

Woburn Promoted from Division One alongside Meltis Corinthians and will need to collect plenty of home points if they are to stay clear of the danger zone.

Verdict Likely to have a battle on their hands to avoid a quick return to Division One.

Editors Three To Fight Out The Title Caldecote, Campton and Westoning Recreation Club .

Editors Three In Danger Of The Drop Luton Borough, Sharnbrook and Woburn.

Division One Supported By Sportsform Review

AFC Kempston Town Reserves The league's top finishing Reserve team last season in fifth place and will look to maintain that status again this term.

Verdict Should once again feature near the top of the table and look a safe bet for a top six finish.

Bedford SA Relegated from the Premier Division at the end of last season and will be looking for a quick return to top flight football.

Verdict Could well fall just short of returning to the Premier Division at the first time of asking but never less look set for a top six finish.

Caldecote Reserves Placed sixth last season and will be again be a force to reckon with especially if their first team enjoy a better season.

Verdict Could well wrestle the top reserve team spot off of AFC Kempston Town Reserves this season.

Campton Reserves Another Reserve team who finished in the top half of the table last term and will once again be expected to at least repeat their seventh place finish of last season.

Verdict Could well push Caldecote all the way for the top reserve team status.

Dunton Making a welcome return to the league after a season away, seventh placed in the Premier Division in season 2005-06.

Verdict Expect to see them in the top six of the league table but not likely to be serious title contenders.

Elstow Abbey 06 Just managed to beat the drop last season and will be looking for a better season this time around.

Verdict Mid-Table finish at the best, but could again feature in the drop zone.

Flitwick Town Finished in third spot last season and will again be expected to feature near the top of the standings.

Verdict Could well be serious promotion candidates but the departure of leading goalscorer Dean Warren to Meltis Corinthians is a big blow to their chances .

Henlow Find themselves back in Division One due to lack of ground requirements for the Premier Division in which they finished seventh last season after winning the Division One title the previous season.

Verdict Will be firm favourites for the league title and could well live up to their billing

Kempston Have finished in ninth spot in each of the last two seasons and will need to find some away form this campaign if they are to finish any higher.

Verdict Mid-Table finish on the cards.

Marston Social Just beat the drop last season after winning the Division Two title in season 2005/06 and another tough campaign looks likely to lie ahead.

Verdict Drop zone candidates

Reddings Wood Fourth place finishers last season who will again be expected to figure in the promotion chase.

Verdict Top six placing on the cards but a return to the Premier Division not likely to happen this season.

Royal Oak Kempston Found life tough in Division One last term following their promotion and eventually had to settle for eleventh spot.

Verdict Will more than likely again be a middle of the table side.

Sandy Reserves Last seasons Division Two Runners-up who will find life a lot tougher in Division One.

Verdict Should stay clear of the drop zone and finish mid-table

Stevington Seventh and Eighth in the last two season following their drop from the Premier Division and don't appear to be serious promotion candidates.

Verdict Another mid-table finish on the cards.

Turvey Relegated from the Premier Division at the end of last season and will like Bedford SA be looking for a quick return.

Verdict A better season very much on the cards but not seen has serious title contenders

Westoning Recreation Club Reserves Last seasons Division Two Champions who will be expected to make a impact in Division One

Verdict Top half of the table finish very much on the cards.

Editors Three To Fight Out The Title Henlow, Caldecote Reserves and Campton Reserves

Editors Three In Danger Of The Drop Elstow Abbey 06, Kempston and Marston Social.

Division Two Preview

Bedford College League newcomers who could well be pushing for promotion in their very first season.

Verdict Top six finish or better very much on the cards.

Blunhan Reserves Finished in sixth spot last season and again will be expected to ply their trade at the top end of the table.

Verdict A promotion challenge very much on the cards and possible title contenders

Clifton Having gained promotion from Division Three and lifted The Watson Shield last season could well be the surprise package this term.

Verdict Could well do the best of the promoted clubs and press for a Division One spot for season 2008/09.

Great Barford Been in the top six in each of the last two seasons and will once again be expected to figure at the top end of the table

Verdict Top six material but not seen has the League Champions

Ickwell & Old Warden Reserves Last seasons Division Three Champions who will certainly make their mark in this higher division

Verdict Top six finish on the cards.

Lidlington United Sports Have placed mid-table in each of the last two seasons without ever looking likely promotion or drop zone candidates.

Verdict Expect another mid-table finish.

Marston Shelton Rovers Fifth and Seventh in their last two campaigns but whilst always a hard side to beat have drawn to many games to push up into the promotion race.

Verdict Another season of the same looking likely.

Meltis Albion Under their previous name of Bedford Albion have been in the bottom half of the table during the last two seasons.

Verdict A season in the drop zone awaits the new Sweetboys.

Meppershall Jurassic Now down to one side, and can expect their reserve team of last season (3rd in Division Two) to be their first team of this season.

Verdict Title contenders once again.

Mulberry Bush After a seventh place 2005/06 campaign had a disappointing season last term in dropping down to eleventh spot.

Verdict Could well lift the league title but then again could well get relegated such is their unpredictability

Newham Athletic Made significant progress last term to finish tenth and will be looking to climb even higher this time around

Verdict The division looks to have a tougher feel to it this season and they will do well to stay away from the drop zone.

Oakley Sports Reserves Last seasons Division Three Runners-up who will perhaps find life a little tougher this season

Verdict Mid-table finishers at the best.

Putnoe United Another club promoted from Division Three who will find life harder in this higher grade.

Verdict Mid-Table finishers at the best

Renhold Village League newcomers and very much an unknown quantity

Verdict At a guess bottom half of the table side.

Saffron Relegated from Division One and very much a club in the same mode as Mulberry Bush

Verdict Expect a mid-table finish

Woburn Reserves Just missed out on promotion last term but might well struggle to repeat their fourth placing of last season.

Verdict A drop into a middle of the table finish expected

Editors Three To Fight Out The Title Blunham Reserves, Clifton and Meppershall Jurassic

Editors Three In Danger Of The Drop Meltis Albion, Newham Athletic and Putnoe United

Division Three Review

AFC Shillington League newcomers whose players will mainly come from the clubs successful youth policy

Verdict Could well have fitness on their side at this level of football and push for a top six placing.

Blue Chip Yet to make it into the top half of the table in their short history and perhaps will again fail to hit this target.

Verdict Lower third of the table finish expected

Caldecote A Very disappointing ninth place finish last term with an improvement this term very much on the cards.

Verdict Expect at least to see them in the top six and could well be in the race for promotion

Exel United Failed to win a game in Division Two last season and should find life easier this time around

Verdict Better season on the cards but not seen has promotion material.

Flitwick Town Reserves Improved up to twelfth spot last term after finishing in the bottom three the previous term and will be looking to maintain that progress

Verdict Middle of the table finishers at the best

Hartwell League newcomers and very much a unknown force

Verdict At a guess middle of the table side

Kings AFC Finished their first ever season in sixth place and once again expected to be amongst the divisions leading lights.

Verdict Should be in the thick of the promotion race with league title not beyond them

Lidlington United Sports Reserves Bottom of the pile for the past two seasons and again expected to feature in the lower half of the table

Verdict Could well prevent the unwanted hattrick but unlikely to stray out of the bottom six

Marabese Ceramics League newcomers formed out of the ashes of Henlow Italians who left the league whilst plying their trade in Division One

Verdict Could well be serious title contenders

Marsh Leys Enjoyed a better season last term to climb up into tenth spot and will be looking to keep the progress going in this only their third season.

Verdict Middle of the table finish looks on the cards

Meltis Corinthians Reserves Finished their first ever season in eighth spot and will be looking to press for promotion this time around.

Verdict Could well make the top six or even be surprise title winners

Potton Wanderers Dropped out of the league after finishing eighth in Division Two last season only to reform very late

Verdict Would be foolishly not to consider them has possible title winners with promotion looking very much on the cards

Riseley Sports Reserves In the bottom two last season, which came as a surprise to many and will be expected to fair much better this season.

Verdict Middle of the table finish their likeliest outcome

Sandy A Enjoyed a seventh place finish last season and will now look to break into the promotion race this time around

Verdict might well find themselves back in the middle of the standings this season

Stewartby Village Back in the league after pulling out during the middle of last season when holding down a mid-table position.

Verdict Could well make the top six this season

Twinwoods Thistle Relegated down from Division Two and will look to bounce back at the first time of asking

Verdict Not expected to figure in the promotion race

Wilshamstead Reserves Disappointing campaign last term to only finish eleventh and better expected this season

Verdict Top six finish could well be on the cards

Editors Three To Fight Out The Title Kings AFC, Marabese Ceramics and Potton Wanderers.

Editors Three To Gain The Wooded Spoon Flitwick Town Reserves, Hartwell and Lidlington United Sports Reserves

Newsround The Clubs

AFC Kempston Town Last Seasons Premier Division Runners-up have appointed Paul Brown as their manager for the 2007/08 season, Paul taking over the permanent reins after stepping into the hot seat following Kevin Smith's departure during last season, Paul has named defender Lee Moon as his assistant.

AFC Shillington Former Meppershall Jurassic stalwart Bob Lovelock will be their manager for their first ever Bedfordshire League season but will be no stranger to the club having managed the team for several seasons in Youth football.

Bedford College Mark Brookes has been appointed Player-Manager of the league newcomers, Mark being a coach of the Football Academy run out of AFC Kempston Rovers.

Caldecote Will this season be under the new management at first team level of Vinny Govoni and Mark Endersby with the continued assistance from Roger Tomlin, whilst Pete Wallace will remain at the helm as Reserve team manager with assistance from Andy McColl and Chris Gabbitas while John Miller and Craig Stevens team up to lead their A teams campaign.

Last seasons award winners were, Neil Mapletroft of The Sid Fage Trophy for first teams manager's player of the season, Glen Renforth of The Terry Baldwin Trophy for first team players-player, Stuart Kemp won the Doug Small Memorial Trophy awarded for Reserve team manager's player of the season, The Nick Jones Memorial Trophy for Reserve team players-player went to Jack Gabbitas whilst The Chessum Roses Shield awarded to The A team manager's player of the season was collected by Ben Barker with John Parker picking up the A Teams players- player award.

Other award winners were Matt Basta of the Simon Hall Memorial Trophy for leading goalscorer in the first team with Jack Gabbitas and Stuart Finding picking up the reserve and A team awards respectively, whilst other Trophies awarded were the Gentle Cup to Stuart Hadow, (first team referee's choice of MoM) to Neil Mapletroft of The Sharon Vale Trophy for most first team appearances, the Rod Jarvis Cup for sportsmanship was collected by Stuart Hadow with The Rob Rogers Memorial Trophy for clubman of the year going to Neil Presland.

The Peter and Josie Maudlin Cup for young player of the year went to Tom Rowland whilst The Pyramid Dental Trophy for player of the year went the way of Neil Mapletroft and last but not least Russell Kemp collected The Jack King Trophy for Supporters player of the year

Campton Will have a new management set-up for the new season in the shape of Roy Hayday who has been appointed first team manager he will be helped by Chris Fry, Coach/Trainer, and Scott Quince and Craig Palmer has Technical Advisors.

Their Reserve team management will remain in the hands of Keith Culleton and Darren Barnard.

Early season pre-season friendly games have seen them win 2-0 at Cranfield United and lose 4-2 at home against Bedford Town Reserves.

Last seasons award winners were, Andy Hayday, (Players Player) James Wishaw (Managers Player) with Gary Gibson collecting the leading goal scorer award.

At Reserve team level, James Barnard was The Players Player choice, Justin Barker, the Manager's Player of the season and Dan Wishaw collected the leading goal scorer award.

Clifton Last season award winners at The Watson Shield winning club were, Clubman, Liam Hill, Top Goalscorer, Greg King, Manager's Player of The Year, Harry Fisher who also collected The Players Player Of The Year Award.

Dunton The new management team at reformed again Dunton are Barry Morris and David Gill who both played at Sandy last season and will be helped by Steve Radley.

Lidlington United Sports Some £8000.00 pounds has been spent on drainage works at their Hurst Grove headquarters during the summer

Ickwell & Old Warden After losing a friendly game 4-3 at AFC Kempston Town on Wednesday August 8th, a goal from Danny Fox was enough to send them into The Jesse Piggott Memorial Trophy Final with a 1-0 win over Blunham, in which with goals from Danny Fox, Andrew Vallom and Lewis Giddings they gained their revenge over host club Sandy for last seasons final defeat.

Marston Social Paul Self has been re-appointed manager of the Social as they seek to establish themselves in Division One, Last seasons award winners were, Andrew Kerrings (Chairman Player) Daniel Bradding (Managers Player and Players Player) Nick Sherwood (Leading goal scorer)

Meltis Corinthians At their annual presentation evening last seasons treble winning club handed out the following awards, Player of The Year, Neville Allen, Manager's Player of The Year, Tim Gill, Most Improved Player, Jason Allison, Top Goal Scorer, Justin Patterson, Referee's Player Of The Year, Matthew McMahon, Clubmen of The Year, Michael Smith, Michael Beard, Marcus Ashby, Andy Simms and Justin Patterson., Supporters Player Of The Year, Tony Woolston, Bedfordshire Junior Cup Final Man Of The Match, Neville Allen, Centenary Cup Final Man Of The Match, Alex Woolston.

Newham Athletic Martin Dazley has been appointed The Athletic new manager for season 2007/8

Oakley Sports Another club with a new manager this season are Premier Division Oakley Sports who will have the much travelled Jim Burke at the helm this season

Saffron Have appointed Chris Mcgarth as their manager in hope that they can make a quick return to Division One

Sandy Due to work commitments Yancy Jones has stepped down as the manager of Division Three, Sandy A and will be replaced by Daniel Bailey who has enlisted the help of Andrew Wren to be his number two, last season awards winners at the Bedford Road club were David Lenton who collected by the 1st Manager's award and the Players Player award, William Sells won the Young Player of The Year Award, whilst the Most Improved Player Award went to Tom Blow.

The leading goalscorer awards were shared at 1st team level by Gary Fil and Steve Muggeridge, at Reserve team level it went to Lee Threadgold and at A team level to Neil Rowley.

At Reserve level, Daniel Lloyd collected the Manager's award, David Gill the Players Player award, Stevie Monks the Young Player award whilst at A Team level Matt Richardson was the Manager's Player of The Year, Roger Freeman the Players Player choice and Daniel Bailey the Young Player of The Year.

Early season Friendly games have seen them go down 1-0 at Arlesey Athletic, run out 4-0 winners over Dunton before winning their First Round Jesse Piggott Memorial Trophy game by the same scoreline over Henlow.

Sharnbrook The Lodge Road clubs summer ground improvements to their changing facilities has been delayed until the end of August and will thus obviously cause disruption to their earlier fixtures until completed around the end of November with temporary changing rooms on the Club Car Park the order of the day.

Stewartby Village Return to the league will see them under the managership of Ben Norrish

Wilshamstead Last seasons award winners at the Jubilee Playing Field Club were, Tom Wisson, 1st Team Managers Player, Paul Jones 1st Team Players Player, and Paul Jones the Leading Goalscorer, at Reserve team level Rob Bessell took the Manager's award, Nigel Ryalls was The Players Player choice and Mark Nicholson the Leading Goalscorer whilst the winner of The Paul Wilson Trophy (up and coming player) went to Kevin Butler.

In an early season friendly fixture using a mixture of 1st and 2nd team players they drew 2-2 with Turvey.

Press Coverage Season 2007/8

Once again the Editor will be looking for your help in supplying information to enable the league to have the best possible coverage in the local press and keep you all updated via our own website at www.bedfordshirefootballleague.co.uk he will as

usual be trying to contact as many clubs as possible early on Saturday evening for your afternoon goalscorers and match detail snippets, so if your personnel has changed since last season then please let him know as soon as possible, alternatively you may make contact by Telephone on 01767- 221022 (please allow 45mins after end of match) or by Mobile on 07779680269 (any time immediately after the game where of course you can leave a text message) or if you prefer drop a line on email to Peter.Francis30@Ntlworld.com

Bedfordshire League 2 Northampton Town League 0

In preparation for our forthcoming game in The FA Carlsberg National System Cup where we are due to play The Amateur Football Combination on Wednesday September 19th at Potters Bar FC, our side under the new management of Kevin Hallett and Marc Brown were comfortable winners over our Northampton Town counterparts in a game played at Caldecote FC on Saturday August 18th, goals from Campton's Gary Gibson and Meltis Corinthians Dean Warren sealing the victory.

(full match report can be found on mitoo if you select the August 18th fixture button)

League Handbooks Season 2007-08

Each club should now have receive a new league handbook for season 2007-08 but if you require any extra copies then please make contact with Peter Francis who will make the necessary arrangements or alternatively by going to our website at www.bedfordshirefootballleague.co.uk and selecting the downloads button their is a option for you to view and print one yourselves.

Handbook Amendment Season 2007-08

Stewatby Village change of secretary to Carl Parker, 16a Woodford Road, Watford, Herts, WD17 1PA, Home Telephone, 01923- 782825, Mobile, 07989- 340033, email, carl@eyeheight.com

Please Remember Our Supporters

Once again **McGirls Money Management and Sportsform** will once again be supporting our league with financial assistance this season and would ask all clubs in return to support them likewise, details of their services etc can be obtained by visiting their websites which can be found by pressing the Links option in our website at www.bedfordshirefootballleague.co.uk