

**Bedfordshire Football League**  
**October 2007 Newsletter**

Last month we took a statistical look at The McGirls Money Management Supported Premier Division, so this month the spotlight falls onto The Sportsform Supported Division One and Division Two statistics for the same period .

In The Sportsform Supported Division One section there is now developing a pattern where by the seasons Division champions can expect to win the title by a ever increasing margin as the last seasons champions **Meltis Corinthians** won the title by nine points thus repeating the effort of **Henlow** in season 2005/6, The Sweetboys losing just once all season whilst **Henlow** remained unbeaten in their championship winning season, whilst the two previous champions **Three Horsehorse Renhold** in season 2004/5 and **Turvey** in season 2003/4 only won their titles by a four points margin which in itself was some three points better than **Golden Lions** one point championship winning margin in season 2002/03.

But of course apart from the league title there is always at least one other promotion place up for grabs into the top flight to be contested which if the last three seasons are anything to go by then **Flitwick Town** should be in the Premier Division for the start of the 2008/09 season because in season 2005/6 **Meltis Corinthians** missed out on promotion by one place only to go up has champions twelve months later whilst twelve months earlier **Henlow** had missed out by the same one place only to then become the unbeaten Division champions in 2004/5, a pattern that had been started by **Wilshamstead** who having lost out by one place at the end of season 2003/04 then made it into a promotion spot the following campaign.

One encouraging note for last seasons two promoted clubs **Meltis Corinthians** and **Woburn** is the fact that no club has made a return to the lower division after just one campaign in the top flight if we except that **Henlow** return to The Sportsform Supported Division One scene for this current season was totally due to facilities requirements rather than their ability on the field of play, as the two clubs that accompanied them up at the start of season 2006/07 **Luton Borough** and **Sharnbrook** remain in the top flight this season, a feat also repeated by **Three Horsehorse Renhold, Blunham** and **Wilshamstead** from the 2004/5 season, **Turvey** and **Renhold United** from season 2003/4 and **Golden Lion** and **Dunton** in season 2002/03.

Over the last five seasons who would you suggest have been the best champions is it **Henlow** who went all season unbeaten in season 2005/06, **Meltis Corinthians** who bagged an amazing 139 goals at a average of 4.96 goals per game last season or perhaps **Three Horseshoes Renhold** who conceded just 25 goals in season 2004/05 at a average of just 1.12goals per game, but then again can we not make a case for **Golden Lion** who after winning the Division One title in 2002/03 were twelve months later to finish third at the end of their first Premier Division season.

Of course whilst there is always a club at the top of the table each season then of course it follows that someone must finish on the bottom of the pile and during the last five seasons in Division one on four occasions that club has managed to win just three games all season mainly **Meppershall Jurassic** last season who the facts show

to have the worse record of any of last five basement clubs netting just 28 goals at a average of exactly one goal per game whilst conceding a massive 126 goals at a average of 4.50goals per game and although **Marston Shelton Rovers** also only netted 28 goals from the same number of goals when finishing bottom at the end of season 2004/5 they did however only leak 95 goals some 31 less than **Meppershall Jurassic**.

Of the other three clubs to finish bottom of the pile the record of **Campton Reserves** is clearly the best has their season was over just a twenty-two game campaign in season 2005/06 when they netted 29 goals at a average of 1.31goals per game and conceded just 57 goals at a average of just 2.59 goals per game.

**Bedford Albion** basement season of 2003/04 seeing them come up with the second highest number of goals conceded leaking a total of 115 goals at a average of 4.42 goals per game whilst the previous season **Duke Sports** bagged a total of 42 goals from their twenty-six outings which works out at a average of 1.61 goals per game.the best of the five basement teams.

So what fate awaits **Meppershall Jurassic** this season in Division Two well the record of all the basement teams show **Campton Reserves** were the only one's to not actually get relegated finishing last season in seventh spot of the fifteen teams but of those who did go down **Duke Sports** faired the best finishing season 2003/04 in third place in Division Two some two places better than **Marston Shelton Rovers** who ended their 2005/06 Division Three campaign fifth of the fourteen teams that season whilst **Bedford Albion** could only manage to finish eleventh of sixteen teams in their 2004/05 Division Two campaign.

Over the past five seasons just two teams have competed in all five Division One campaign's namely **Campton Reserves** and **Woburn** who of course are now in the Premier Division., whilst during the same period nine clubs who have played Division One football are no longer in Bedfordshire Football League membership, **Blunham Village** who folded at the end of last season, **Denbigh Hall S&S Bletchley** who moved back into the North Bucks League at the end of season 2005/06, **Three Horseshoes Renhold** who folded whilst holding Premier Division status at the end of season 2005/06, **Bromham United** who folded at the end of season 2004/05, **Henlow Italians** who folded during their Division One campaign in season 2005/06, **Turvey** who folded without kicking a ball this season after being relegated from The Premier Division last season, **Ujima** who folded during their 2004/05 Division One season, **Golden Lion** who folded at the end of season 2003/04 after finishing third in the Premier Division and **Duke Sports** who pulled out during the 2004/05 season when still playing Division One football.

Whilst the winning of the Division One title over the past five seasons has been by a comfortable margin that is certainty not the case in Division Two where the biggest margin of last five champions is just three points achieved by **Flitwick Town** in season 2002/03 with the last three winners, **Westoning Recreation Club Reserves**, **Marston Social** and **Denbigh Hall S&S Bletchley** have lifted the title with just two points to spare, whilst **Biggleswade United A** margin in season 2003/04 was by just a single point.

Along the way **Denbigh Hall S&S Bletchley** lost just three times whilst the other four clubs tasted defeat on only two occasions and if these facts are to be repeated again this season then the title race is already down to a six team race despite us being just seven weeks into the season.

So who were the best champions of Division Two over these five seasons, well that is a far from easy question to answer, **Biggleswade United A** would lay claim to being the most entertaining having netted a average of 4.40 goals per game whilst at the same time conceding a average of 1.68 goals with the scoring records of the last two winners **Westoning Recreation Club Reserves** with a average of 3.57 goals per game and **Marston Social** with a average of 3.65 goals per game being somewhat better than **Flitwick Town** average of 3.25 goals per game and **Denbigh Hall S&S Bletchley** average of 3.16 goals per game.

But if you look at the facts at the other end of the park both **Denbigh Hall S&S Bletchley** and **Marston Social** conceded just 1 goal per game to better the records of **Flitwick Town** on 1.04 goals per game and **Westoning Recreation Club Reserves** on 1.21 goals per game, so if you are going to press me to answer the question then I will suggest to you the name of **Marston Social**.

Having gained promotion to Division One, like **Westoning Recreation Club Reserves** and **Sandy Reserves** did last May then what awaits them at the new level, well over the last four seasons then their future looks far from rosy, of the teams that went up at the end of season 2005/06, whilst **Blunham Village** did the best in finishing tenth they were to fold at the seasons end, **Royal Oak Kempston** finished eleventh and **Marston Social** 13<sup>th</sup> but **Biggleswade Athletic** were to fold just two months into the campaign.

It was no better the previous season when **Meppershall Jurassic** finished tenth of the twelve clubs to reach the end of the season, one place above **Denbigh Hall S&S Bletchley** who then left the league whilst **Griffin Toddington** were forced to pull out during the season never to be seen again.

Of those gaining promotion for the 2004/05 season the story was even worse, both **Biggleswade United A** and **Duke Sports** failed to start the season whilst **Meltis Sports** finished 14<sup>th</sup> of the 15 teams leaving **Henlow Italians** the best with their seventh place finish.

We have to go back to season 2003/04 to find all of the previous seasons promoted making it to the seasons end, **Corinthians** in 7<sup>th</sup> place, **Marston Shelton Rovers**, 10<sup>th</sup>, **Ujima**, 11<sup>th</sup> **Flitwick Town**, 12<sup>th</sup> and **Bedford Albion** bottom of the pile in 14<sup>th</sup> position.

At the other end of table the requirement to finish off the base of the table looks to be a target of just five wins has the most number of victories achieved by a bottom club during the last five seasons is **Newham Athletic** four wins during season 2005/06 whilst in season 2003/04 **Wootton Lions** won just three times, in 2002/3 **Meppershall Jurassic** won just twice, in 2004/05 **Blue Chip** had just a single win which **Exel United** even failed to achieve last term going all season without a victory.

However the record of the bottom clubs the following season leads to give **Exel United** some hope for this current season, **Newham Athletic** were to follow up their bottom placing by climbing to 10<sup>th</sup> last season, a record that was bettered by **Meppershall Jurassic** in season 2003/04 when they finished 9<sup>th</sup> whilst in season 2004/05 **Wootton Lions** finished 13<sup>th</sup> of the 16 teams all these coming in division two campaigns leaving **Blue Chip** the odd team out who after finishing bottom at the end of season 2004/05 then played the following season in Associate Division Two where they placed 6<sup>th</sup> of the 10 teams to finish the season.

For the record a total of thirteen teams who have played Division Two football during the past five seasons are no longer in league membership, namely **Amphill Athletic, Biggleswade Athletic, Biggleswade United A, Blunham Village, Denbigh Hall S&S Bletchley, Griffin Toddington, Henlow Italians, Meppershall Jurassic Reserves, Royal British Legion Bletchley, Russell Park United, Sugar Loaf Meppershall, Ujima and Wootton Lions.**

Following on from last months weekly award winners this months winners are

#### **Week Five, September 22<sup>nd</sup>**

##### **Premier Division Supported By McGirls Money Management**

**Riseley Sports** for their opening win of the season 2-1 at home over **Caldecote.**

##### **Division One Supported By Sportsform**

**Dunton** for their 4-1 away win at **Caldecote Reserves**

##### **Division Two**

**Clifton** for their 2-0 home win over **Bedford Albion.**

##### **Division Three**

**Potton Wanderers** for their 4-3 home win over **Meltis Corinthians Reserves.**

#### **Week Six, September 29<sup>th</sup>**

##### **Premier Division Supported By McGirls Money Management**

**AFC Kempston Town** for their 3-1 away win at **Campton**

##### **Bedfordshire Junior Cup**

**Kings AFC** for their 2-1 home win over last seasons beaten finalists **Sandy Reserves.**

### **Week Seven, 6<sup>th</sup> October**

#### **Premier Division Supported By McGirls Money Management**

**Ickwell & Old Warden** for their 3-0 away win at **Blunham**

#### **Division One Supported By Sportsform**

**Kempston** for their 3-2 away win at **Campton Reserves**

#### **Division Two**

**Saffron** for their 5-1 away win at **Newham Athletic**.

#### **Division Three**

**Blue Chip** for their 4-1 home win over **Meltis Corinthians Reserves**.

### **Week Eight, 13<sup>th</sup> October**

#### **Bedfordshire Senior Trophy**

**Sharnbrook** for their penalty shoot-out home win over **Oakley Sports**

#### **Division One Supported By Sportsform**

**Henlow** for their 3-1 away win at **Dunton**.

#### **Division Two**

**Woburn Reserves** for their 3-1 away win at **Great Barford**.

#### **Division Three**

**Marabese Ceramics** for their 10-0 home win over **Marsh Leys**.

### **Please Remember Our Supporters**

**McGirls Money Management and Sportsform**, both contribute funds to our league which are returned to you member clubs in form of prize money at the seasons end, so if you are able to place any reciprocal business their way this can only help us as a league to retain them has league supporters, please remember to give our league a plug when doing business.

[www.bedfordshirefootballleague.co.uk](http://www.bedfordshirefootballleague.co.uk)

Is the website address of our league's website which fronts the football mitoo site and where you can find out all the updated news and information regarding your league within a matter of hours of it happening, if you are one of these people you just hates updating your league handbook with all the various changes that take place during the season then the place for you to visit is the downloads section where a updated and amended copy can be printed out.

Any feedback on the site would be most welcome, comments etc please to Peter Francis.

### **Assistant Referee's Course**

The next course is due to take place on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> October at Haynes Village Hall starting at 7pm sharp, to apply for a place on the course which is free of charge then please contact league secretary Barry Snelson as soon as possible.

### **Bedfordshire Senior Trophy Second Round Draw**

Amphill Town v **AFC Kempston Town**  
**Meltis Corinthians** v Bedford FC  
Arslesey Athletic v **Riseley Sports**  
Totternhoe v **Sharnbrook**  
**Sandy** v **Caldecote**  
Crawley Green v **Luton Borough**

Games to be played on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2007

### **Bedfordshire Junior Cup Second Round Draw**

Meltis Albion v Meltis Corinthians Reserves, Ickwell & Old Warden Reserves v Reddings Wood, Linslade v Mulberry Bush Luton Leagrave v Campton Reserves, Offley Social v Meppershall Jurassic, Marsh Leys v Blue Chip, Sandy A v Stewartby Village, Kempston v Marston Shelton Rovers, Flitwick Town v Putnoe United, Saffron v Caldecote Reserves, Henlow v Royal Oak Kempston, 61 FC Luton A v Dunton, Oakley Sports Reserves v Bedford SA, Newham Athletic v Kings AFC, Elstow Abbey v Westoning Recreation Club Reserves

Games to be played on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2007

