



Bedfordshire County **Football League**



Full Time Report

Season 2021-22

Premier Division supported by Sportsform

The closest and most dramatic Premier Division supported by Sportsform title race for many a season was eventually won on the last day of the season by Biggleswade FC Reserves to complete a league and cup double having five days earlier lifted the Britannia Cup with a 2-0 victory over Shefford Town & Campton Reserves. The opening third of the season saw AFC Oakley, Queens Park Crescents, Elstow Abbey and Caldecote all enjoying spells on top of the standings before at the turn of the year it was AFC Oakley leading the way with the eventual three leading candidates trailing in their wake. Sharnbrook in 6th spot, Crawley Green Reserves in 7th spot and Biggleswade FC Reserves only 9th.

By the end of January Elstow Abbey had taken over at the top of the summit with Sharnbrook now 4th, Biggleswade FC Reserves 6th and Crawley Green Reserves 8th. So now it was down to would you rather have the points in the bag gained by Elstow Abbey or the various games in hand enjoyed by the chasing pack. Abbey were to hold onto that top spot until April 9th, but just one point from their two home games in March answering the question, yes the games in hand for me please has Sharnbrook took over the top spot which they only relinquished four days from the end of the season when Crawley Green Reserves hit the top spot for the first time in the campaign and now just required to win on the last day of the season at Riseley Sports to collect the league title.

The drama of the last day of the season was to commence early morning when Shefford Town & Campton Reserves informed the league that they were unable to raise a side to entertain Biggleswade FC Reserves, the three gifted points to FC taking them to the top of the table goal difference ahead of the Green and two points clear of Sharnbrook who were to end their season away at bottom of the table AFC Kempston Town & Bedford College. Come the end of the afternoon The Green had lost at Riseley Sports and Sharnbrook at AFC Kempston Town & Bedford College to leave the FC the 2021-22 seasons champions.

Caldecote with eight wins from their closing ten games claiming the fourth spot a point ahead of Elstow Abbey and four points ahead of Cranfield United who gained just three wins from their closing eight outings.

Down at the other end of the standings with Bedford Albion having folded at the end of November nine games into the season where just three points had been collected

come the closing month of the season it had become a three club battle between AFC Kempston Town & Bedford College, Biggleswade United U23's and Riseley Sports to keep their heads above the potential relegation zone.

At the seasons end it was Riseley Sports despite their last day victory over Crawley Green Reserves occupying that most unwanted spot a point adrift of Biggleswade United U23's who had gained ten points from their last five outings to complete the great escape who in turn were just goal difference adrift of AFC Kempston Town & Bedford College following their last day victory over Sharnbrook to end a run of six consecutive defeats and duly complete great escape take two.

However, post seasons end Queens Park Crescents had been found to have breached league rules in their 5-2 victory against Riseley Sports three days earlier thus gifting the Sports the three points which now had them sitting above both AFC Kempston Town & Bedford College and Biggleswade United u23's in the final standings.

Premier Division supported by Sportsform League Table Season 2021-22

1	Biggleswade FC Reserves	28	19	4	5	85	35	50	61
2	Crawley Green Reserves	28	19	5	4	67	29	38	61 *
3	Sharnbrook First	28	18	5	5	75	49	26	59
4	Caldecote First	28	17	2	9	74	51	23	53
5	Elstow Abbey First	28	15	7	6	71	46	25	52
6	Cranfield United First	28	15	4	9	63	44	19	49
7	AFC Oakley First	28	13	5	10	74	52	22	42 *
8	Stevington First	28	11	4	13	41	54	-13	34 *
9	Queens Park Crescents First	28	11	4	13	50	45	5	31 *
10	Marston Shelton Rovers First	28	10	2	16	56	90	-34	31 *
11	Flitwick Town First	28	8	5	15	53	63	-10	29
12	Shefford Town & Campton Reserves	28	8	1	19	37	58	-21	24 *
13	Riseley Sports First	28	5	6	17	42	83	-41	21
14	AFC Kempston Town & Bedford College Firs	28	5	4	19	34	72	-38	19
15	Biggleswade United U23	28	5	4	19	40	91	-51	19

* adjustment made

Division One

Stotfold Development were to claim the Division One league title on April 9th 2022 following their 2-2 draw at home to Barton Rovers Reserves having lost just two games all season away at Henlow in November and away at Lea Sports PSG in February. However, a home defeat to Henlow the following weekend followed by defeat at Totternhoe Reserves in their last game of the season saw the margin at the seasons end reduced to just one point by Potton United Reserves who were to end their season with five wins from their last six outings to collect the season's silver medals alongside the silver medals they collected in the Bedfordshire FA Intermediate Cup where they were beaten by AFC Dunstable Development. United finishing some five points clear of Barton Rovers Reserves who themselves only dropped points in the forth-mentioned game at Stotfold in their own last five outings.

Division One League Table Season 2021-22

1	Stotfold Development	22	14	4	4	84	29	55	46
2	Potton United Reserves	22	15	0	7	51	32	19	45
3	Barton Rovers Reserves	22	12	4	6	72	47	25	40
4	Sporting Lewsey Park First	22	11	5	6	48	43	5	38
5	Lea Sports PSG Saturday First	22	11	4	7	53	51	2	37
6	Totternhoe Reserves	22	14	1	7	43	30	13	36 *
7	St Josephs (Saturday) First	22	10	4	8	77	55	22	34
8	Cranfield United Reserves	22	11	1	10	47	43	4	34
9	Henlow First	22	9	4	9	53	48	5	31
10	Wilstead First	22	5	2	15	31	79	-48	17
11	Flitwick Town Reserves	22	1	3	18	22	79	-57	6
12	Pitstone & Ivinghoe United Reserves	22	2	2	18	25	70	-45	-7 *

* adjustment made

Sporting Lewsey Park taking up fourth spot having lost out on a chance of collecting those silver medals by losing four of their last five outings. Fifth place going the way of Lea Sports PSG who then ended their season by being beaten by Cranfield United Reserves in the final of this seasons Centenary Cup. Whilst Totternhoe Reserves with just two defeats in their closing 11 outings finished sixth.

Down at the other end of the standings Pitstone & Ivinghoe Reserves were to finish in bottom spot having recorded just two wins all seasons both of which came at home against second from bottom Flitwick Town Reserves and third from bottom of the table Wilstead.

Alas early season saw both Kempston Athletic plus Ickwell & Old Warden pull out of the league.

Division Two supported by Hy-Pro

The Division Two supported by Hy-Pro crown was to go the way of Clifton who clinched the title on April 26th 2022 with a 2-1 home victory over Wootton Blue Cross who at the seasons end were some seven points adrift in second spot to collect the season's silver medals. Clifton tasting defeat just twice all season away at Wootton Blue Cross in February to end a 12 game winning start to the season and then at home to AFC Oakley Reserves in early April in their tenth home game of the season. The Blue Cross themselves only losing just twice more during the campaign at AFC Bedford United in their third start of the season and at Renhold in early January.

Taking up third spot but some nine points behind the Blue Cross were Renhold whose highlight of the season saw them lift the Jubilee Cup with a 2-1 final victory over Bedford SA. They in turn six points ahead of fourth place AFC Oakley Reserves and nine points clear of fifth place AFC Bedford United.

Division Two supported by Hy-Pro Table Season 2021-22

1	Clifton First	24	21	1	2	81	26	55	64
2	Wootton Blue Cross First	24	18	3	3	71	21	50	57
3	Renhold First	24	15	3	6	67	28	39	48
4	AFC Oakley Reserves	24	14	1	9	52	34	18	42 *
5	AFC Bedford United (Sat) First	24	11	4	9	51	40	11	37
6	Harlington Juniors First	24	11	2	11	51	71	-20	34 *
7	FC Haynes First	24	12	3	9	66	42	24	32 *
8	Bedford SA First	24	7	2	15	43	41	2	32 *
9	Soccerlise First	24	9	2	13	44	56	-12	28 *
10	Stopsley United First	24	9	2	13	39	60	-21	25 *
11	Brache Phoenix First	24	6	6	12	27	60	-33	24
12	AFC Kempston Town & Bedford College Rese	24	2	5	17	28	73	-45	10 *
13	The 61 FC (Luton) Reserves	24	1	6	17	26	94	-68	9

* adjustment made

Down at the other end of the standings. The 61FC Luton Reserves with just a lone home victory all season over AFC Bedford United in mid-November occupied the bottom spot yet were only a point adrift of AFC Kempston Town & Bedford College

Reserves whose four points from six on offer in their season's meetings with the 61 kept them off the basement spot. Town themselves some 14 points adrift of third from bottom of the table Brache Phoenix.

Division Three supported by Hy-Pro

Wootton Blue Cross Reserves were to claim the Division Three supported by Hy-Pro title whilst still unbeaten for the season on the 9th April 2022 after winning 6-2 at FC Haynes Reserves. After drawing their opening game of the season at Sporting Carpathians their victory at Haynes was win number 16 on the bounce before their only league defeat of the season came at home to FC Polonia (Luton) some 21 days later. It was left to Sporting Carpathians some eight points adrift of the Blue Cross to claim the season's silver medals. Losing just the three times at Wootton Blue Cross Reserves in early October and then in both of their clashes with FC Polonia (Luton) who eventually took third spot 17 points adrift of the champions but some two points ahead of fourth place Sharnbrook Reserves and four points ahead of fifth place Caldecote Reserves.

Division Three supported by Hy-Pro League Table 2021-22 Season

1	Wootton Blue Cross Reserves	18	16	1	1	88	27	61	49
2	Sporting Carpathians First	18	13	2	3	82	30	52	41
3	FC Polonia (Luton) First	18	10	2	6	50	35	15	32
4	Sharnbrook Reserves	18	11	1	6	43	29	14	30 *
5	Caldecote Reserves	18	8	4	6	38	43	-5	28
6	FC Haynes Reserves	18	7	2	9	38	58	-20	23
7	Shefford Town & Campton U23	18	6	1	11	23	49	-26	18 *
8	Atletico Europa First	18	4	2	12	36	54	-18	11 *
9	Sandy (Sat) First	18	3	1	14	24	65	-41	10
10	CS Rovers First	18	3	2	13	21	53	-32	9 *
11	Marston Shelton Rovers Res [withdrawn]	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-2 *

* adjustment made

The Carpathians were however to have their revenge over FC Polonia (Luton) by beating them 3-1 in the final of the Watson Shield.

Down at the other end of the standings with Marston Shelton Reserves having withdrawn from the league in early February, the basement 10th spot spot was taken up by CS Rovers just a point shy of 9th place Sandy FC who in turn were just a single point shy of 8th place Atletico Europa.

Division Four

Lea Sports PSG Reserves were to emerge the Division Four champions some five points ahead of second place M&DH Clapham Sports and eight points ahead of third place Kempston Rovers (BCFL). The Sports losing just three times all season, twice to Kempston Rovers (BCFL) in the opening month of the season before embarking on a 11 game unbeaten run of which 10 of those games were won before losing at home to M&DH Clapham Sports in early April 2022.

Second place M&DH Clapham Sports themselves losing just the four times, at home to Lea Sports PSG Reserves in their opening game of the season and then seven days later at Shefford Town & Campton A. before a nine game unbeaten run saw them stake a claim for the league title until beaten at Kempston Rovers (BCFL) in mid-March and at Elstow Abbey Reserves in mid-April just seven days after winning at Lea Sports PSG Reserves.

Division Four League Table Season 2021-22

1	Lea Sports PSG Saturday Reserves	18	14	1	3	48	26	22	43
2	M&DH Clapham Sports (Sat) First	18	12	2	4	58	24	34	38
3	Kempston Rovers (BCFL) First	18	11	2	5	54	36	18	35
4	Shefford Town & Campton 'A'	18	10	1	7	54	38	16	31
5	Flitwick Town 'A'	18	8	2	8	42	47	-5	25 *
6	Elstow Abbey Reserves	17	7	1	9	53	43	10	22
7	Square	18	5	5	8	37	48	-11	18 *
8	Blunham First	17	6	1	10	32	43	-11	16 *
9	Bedford Santos First	18	7	3	8	29	26	3	6 *
10	Catsbrook Wanderers First	18	0	0	18	6	82	-76	-4 *

* adjustment made

NB: Elstow Abbey Reserves v Bluham game not played. No points awarded.

Down at the other end of the standings it was 18 defeats from 18 outings for basement club Catsbrook Wanderers with second from bottom of the table Bedford Santos some 10 points ahead but also ten points adrift of third from bottom club Blunham.

Division Five

It was to be the last day of the season on May 21st 2022 before Sporting Carpathians Reserves were able to claim the Division Five title some three points clear of second place Wootton Blue Cross U23's. Dropping points in just three games all season. At Luton Panthers in a 0-0 draw on October 23rd 2022 before losing for the first time on the 19th February 2022, 3-1 at eventual third place Newman United. Then for the third in the infamous return leg on April 23rd 2022 where both clubs breached league rules and suffered points deductions that so nearly cost the Carpathians the league title alongside putting paid to any hopes United had of collecting that crown.

For second place Wootton Blue Cross U23's there was just two defeats all season both suffered at the hands of Sporting Carpathians Reserves. Whilst third place Newham United did collect some silverware in form of a Bedfordshire FA Junior Cup final victory over Clifton Reserves.

Down at the other end of the table the basement spot went to M&DH Clapham Sports Reserves who tasted victory just once during the season in a 6-1 home win over Elstow Abbey Reserves in just game number three of the season to leave them at the campaigns end some 11 points adrift of second from bottom of the table Harlington Juniors Reserves.

Division Five League Table Season 2021-22

1	Sporting Carpathians Reserves	18	15	2	1	78	25	53	45 *
2	Wootton Blue Cross U23	18	13	3	2	76	22	54	42
3	Newman United First	18	12	4	2	58	32	26	36 *
4	Clifton Reserves	18	9	2	7	41	33	8	26 *
5	Luton Panthers FC	18	6	5	7	45	38	7	23
6	Revivalists First	18	6	0	12	33	50	-17	18
7	Sandy (Sat) Reserves	18	6	1	11	20	47	-27	18 *
8	Woodside Adult	18	5	3	10	24	41	-17	17 *
9	Harlington Juniors Reserves	18	4	4	10	37	57	-20	15 *
10	M&DH Clapham Sports (Sat) Reserves	18	1	2	15	20	87	-67	4 *

* adjustment made