

Bedfordshire County Football League



Season 2019-2020

News Bulletin Number 1

Sunday 25th August 2019



Noticeboard

Registrations

Please remember for a player to be legal to take part in any game his registration must be approved by the competition registration secretary by 12 noon on the day of the match. Failure to comply with this being league rule 18A will result in the player being declared ineligible to play.

To check out if any player is fully registered go to Full Time and click on any days given fixture. If the player in question **does not appear** in the available to play list then that player **is not eligible** to take part in that given fixture.

All clubs are requested to check that their players registered on Whole Game have correctly transferred to Full Time.

Reporting of Result Deadline

2.30pm Kick Off: Deadline 5.30pm

2.00pm Kick Off: Deadline 5.00pm

As per League Rule 21B Home clubs should report the result of the game by text/telephone to Peter Francis on 07779680269.

Please refrain from leaving messages on the answer phone.

To assist with the publication of the league News Bulletin could clubs/teams please also add the name of their goalscorers. It whilst not a league rule would greatly assist if the Away clubs/ teams also texted their goalscorers to the same number 07779680269.

Reporting of Results County Cup Competitions.

Home clubs to report the results as per details above and to **also** report the result to the County FA.

Away clubs when playing **opposition outside the league** should report their result as per details above.

Loading of Results Sheets Deadline onto Full Time as per League Rule 21c

Saturday Fixtures: By Midnight the following Wednesday

Wednesday Fixtures: By Midnight the Following Saturday.

Brian Buck Pre-Season Travellers Tales

2. (13,014) (3,614th 'new' ground) Wednesday 3rd July 2019. Ampthill Town U18 0 Ampthill Town Development 2 (Played at Ampthill Town Youth & Junior Section, Abbey Lane, Ampthill) att 15 approx. This game was a rarity for me in that I was able to pick up a 'new' ground in Bedfordshire. I'm told that it is or was known locally as the 'Tidy Tip' ground, because of its close proximity to the local Tidy Tip and I recall that Ampthill Athletic used to play here. A 'Google' searched reveals that they seemed to go out of existence after about 2012. Of course, I would have preferred not to have seen an inter-club match here, but in truth if you hadn't known who the teams were on arrival then it would have just been a normal match. Furthermore, we had a decent ref in Dean Carney in charge and he oversaw a match in which very few fouls were committed. This was a 40 minutes each way encounter and as you can see from the score it was a fairly even game. Most of action came in the first half and on 10 minutes the Development side took the lead with a 30 yarder. They then doubled their lead from an effort just inside the area when any number of about five people could have claimed the goal, but I gave it to the chap who had the original shot. The second half was much quieter and few balls ended up in the adjacent field. By the end the two people who impressed me most were the respective keepers, who both pulled off some fine saves, especially the U18 keeper.

5. (13,027) Wednesday 17th July 2019 Clapham Sports M&DH 1 AFC Oakley M&DH Reserves 6 (Played at King George VI Playing Fields, High Street, Clapham) att 8. It seemed for a while that there wouldn't be a ref for tonight's match as most of the Bedford based refs were due to be at a 'Sin Bin' training meeting. What I want to know is how much do they cost and can you fit more than one player into a bin? Anyway we had the chap who usually refs Wootton Village pre-season friendlies instead as his course isn't until August. For a while it looked like there would be an attendance of just three tonight, with each of us occupying a separate park bench, but gradually people turned up, not least two mothers of some of the Clapham players who, from what they seemed to be saying, had produced roughly half of their team between them! They shared a bench with me. Clapham had just one sub whereas Oakley had three. This could have been a sponsors evening as M&DH Insurance sponsor both sides. This was never going to be a great night for the hosts, especially as I soon learned that one of their players was actually a hockey player. Furthermore their keeper, their manager, wasn't really a keeper. Oakley meanwhile were a physically and technically better side and they comfortably led 3-0 at the break. Clapham marginally improved in the second half, but still conceded thrice more. But they did deserve their consolation goal shortly before the end and despite suffering a heavy defeat here they should do much better when the season proper starts.

29 (13,041) Wednesday 31st July 2019. Sandy 3 Blunham 0 (Friendly Match) att 30 approx. This was a rather low key match, watched largely by mates of the players. It was good to see the reformed Blunham back in business as a few years back they were one of the more powerful sides in the Beds County League and they regularly featured in the Jesse Piggott Memorial Trophy. Sandy have had better days as well, but at least they have kept going. When I first came here they played in the South Midlands League Premier Division, but being unable to keep up with the demands of the ground grading folks they continue to play at the Bedford Road Recreation Ground. The first half saw chances created by both sides, Sandy more so, but in truth neither side looked likely to score. While this was not happening we were joined by an occupant of one of the adjoining houses. We'd met him before and we talked about old times. When we told him that some of his neighbours, one in particular, don't always return the ball when it goes into their gardens, he said, "Well, that's the last time I play bowls with him!" Just before half time we were also joined by a player with Sandy connections and as the second period started he shouted out to one of his mates, "You fat git." So it was rather surprising to see about half the players on the pitch turn and look at him to see if he was referring to them! We were told that in this half Sandy were now fielding most of their first team. Whatever, but Blunham did fade now, thus allowing Sandy to rattle in three goals to ultimately give them an easy win.

30. (13,042) Thursday 1st August 2019. Wootton Village 4 AFC Oakley M & DH Reserves 7 (Friendly Match) att 15 approx. You'll never get bored watching a match here! As far as Wootton are concerned their fans, committee, management and possibly even some of their players, have an almost unrivalled passion for their club. For example, in the absence of the local council coming to come and cut the pitch, one of them spent six and a half hours cutting it with a hand mower! They even coerced young children to go climb up a rickety step ladder to fetch stray balls in the adjacent school playground, although they seemed to need little persuasion! They have for the first time formed a reserve team this season. But by the end of the match they still had the same problem. Wins are hard to come by! Tonight the ref was the chap who is usually their club lino. Apparently he did need a bit of persuasion, but by the end everyone seemed to agree that he did a decent job. Wootton took a second minute lead but by the 16th minute the one sub Oakley team were winning 3-1. But by the 20th minute the score was 2-3. Then a few minutes later Wootton completely changed their side, apart from the keeper, an exercise they repeated halfway through the second half. By the 31st minute the score was 2-6, but Wootton pulled a goal back before the break. The second half saw Oakley slow down a bit, apart from their energetic number 10 who scored most of their goals. They scored their last goal on 63 minutes before Wootton got their last one on 77 minutes, thus bringing to a close a noisy evening of organised but enjoyable chaos, both on and off the pitch!

36. (13,048) Thursday 8th August 2019. Wootton Village 4 Cranfield United Sunday 4 (Friendly Match) att 25 approx. With little else on offer tonight it was a quick return to Wootton Recreation ground, where if we are not careful we will end up being classed as home fans. Wootton Village is in many ways a remarkable club. For a side which plays so low down the pyramid structure, they get great crowds and there is very much a family feel to match days here. Perhaps this is partly due to the fact that about three quarters of the team actually live in Wootton. This week they once again fielded virtually two sides, but this time each side got given 45 minutes each. However at least one player turned out for Cranfield in the first half and for Wootton

after the break. Wootton's keeper injured his finger shortly before the start and couldn't play, so a volunteer donned the keepers shirt and did so well that the club are seriously thinking of making him their regular first team keeper rather than playing him as an outfield player for their reserves. The game was a good one and when there were fouls, intentionally or otherwise, the guilty party immediately apologised. Cranfield created more chances than Wootton throughout, especially in the first half although possession was roughly even. Wootton took the lead on 37 minutes but within four minutes Cranfield had taken the lead. Wootton equalised on 51 minutes, but goals on 58 and 67 minutes seemed to push the outcome beyond the hosts reach. But on 72 minutes Wootton pulled a goal back and on 76 minutes they equalised with a long range effort from their 52 year old captain, calculated as being a yard for each year of his life! Another thoroughly enjoyable evening here.

43rd game of the season (Match 13,055) Wednesday 14th August 2019. Wilstead 0 Queens Park Crescents 4 (Friendly Match) att 15 approx. On another night during the season, this match might have not started, as torrential rain in the early afternoon flooded everywhere locally for a while. But when the possibilities of play were checked out later on by the Beds County League vice chairman, Peter Francis, he was told that the pitch needed the rain as it was rock hard on the previous day. I think that my last visit here was for a Bedfordshire County League Hop match, when there were about 150 present and when the village hall was open for refreshments and the place was buzzing. Tonight, it seemed that Peter and I were the only 'proper' spectators as everyone else present appeared to be either non-playing players or people having a direct link to either club. We stood on some slightly raised banking, from where we not only got a slightly better view of proceedings but were also able to see the new housing that is the newly constructed town of Wixams, creeping ever closer to Wilstead. While the match was in progress a Wilstead official was busy filling in some of the holes in the track the lino's run up and down on. I assume that these holes were caused by previous lino's and not some local rabbits wanting to take up officiating! As for the game Wilstead played very well for the first 20 minutes or so, but their dominance didn't yield any goals. But then the visitors took over and on 37 minutes they were awarded a slightly harshly given spot kick, but I do concede that the fit looking ref was closer to the incident than me. But penalty or not, the resultant spot kick was blasted high and wide. But despite this miss Crescents were 2-0 up at the break and they completed their scoring with further goals on 50 and 65 minutes. On paper this result didn't look too good for Wilstead, but we were told that their line up was a mixture of first team and reserves, whereas Crescents had their full first (only!) team squad on show.

44. (13,056) Thursday 15th August 2019. Wootton Blue Cross Veterans 0 Wootton Village 2 (Friendly Match) att 25 approx. Peter and I had seen Wootton Village play on the previous two Thursdays as well and if we carry on like this we will have to become season ticket holders! It was no real hardship for Wootton Village to come here tonight as the clubs respective pitches are less than 100 yards apart, although I suppose there was an outside change of getting run over as they crossed to road to get to Weston Park. This ground looks lovely at this time of the year. The trees are fully leafed, the grass is well kept and you can sit down and watch the match and get refreshments when you want. What's not to like about the place? The Vets apparently had a bit of a problem before kick off though Their manager had gone on holiday, seemingly with their kit. Luckily, they found a kit in the dressing rooms and not really

knowing who it belonged to they used it anyway. There were no corner flags out at the start, a deficiency which was remedied after 7 minutes. In truth, from a neutral spectator point of view, the first half didn't really hold ones attention. The Vets clearly had experience on their side, but how much pre-season training had they done? By contrast the Village were willing, but lacked experience. However, after the Vets missed a sitter on 41 minutes the Village took the lead three minutes later when the scorer latched on to a through ball and easily outpaced his marker. After half time refreshments the second half was of much better quality and quite watchable. In this period the Vets soon tired and the younger legs of the Village, assisted by regular substitutions, gained control. On 68 minutes they claimed a second goal which seemed to be hooked home from the corner of the six yard box. By the end both sides would have been pleased how the evening went. The Vets would know that they need to get fitter and the Village would take comfort from the fact that their lengthy pre-season programme was starting to pay dividends.

49. (13,061) Wednesday 21st August 2019. AFC Kempston Town & Bedford College 3 Queens Park Crescents 4 (Friendly Match) (Played at Renhold United) att 10 approx. Thanks to Twitter, I picked up on this match earlier in the day. It's always nice to come here as it's in a lovely rural location, even if the adjacent Three Horseshoes pub has still yet to be built on after its demolition, seemingly years ago now. The good people of Renhold make you feel so welcome and having an open tea bar during the match gets them extra brownie points as well. Thank you. The match turned out to be a good one as well and I wish that all games I watch were like so. It featured two sides trying to win as hard as they could, but not playing as their lives hung on the final result. We'd seen the visitors turn over Wilstead seven days earlier and at the time of writing they were the best Premier Division side we'd seen so far this season, albeit in friendly matches only. They took the lead on 6 minutes. It might have only been a tap in but the scorer had great ability and I can see the scouts knocking on his door soon. Kempston were level on 11 minutes with a shot thumped home from 12 yards, but within a minute Crescents had regained the lead. Then on 30 minutes it was all square again following a 20 yard direct free kick. However the score was 2-3 at the break. This might suggest a close game, but in this period Kempston's goals were their only scoring attempts whilst Crescents had at least eight scoring attempts in addition to their goals. After refreshments in the aforementioned tea bar at half we were ready for the second half and now Kempston were far more organised, although Crescents did get a fourth goal on 60 minutes. But by the end of the half Kempston had more goal attempts than then, one bringing their third goal on 74 minutes. There were fears that the excellent ref, Brian Cooper, may have not been able to get the whole 90 minutes in, but he did, with a bit of added on time and we were all done by 8.20pm.

50. (13,062) Thursday 22nd August 2019. Wootton Village 1 Price Wallace 9 (Friendly Match) att 20 approx. This was the last of four consecutive Thursdays watching Wootton Village. The Beds County League vice chairman and I have seen them play so often that we are thinking of becoming season ticket holders! On the pitch though this was not one of their better evenings. Tonight they were up against a powerful Sunday league side who were basically much better than them. They have switched to the Milton Keynes Sunday League this season after the Beds Sunday League refused their request not to be promoted to their premier division this season. They were well organised and many of their players had their names on the backs of

their shirts. It was they who took the lead on 9 minutes. By half time they were winning 5-0 and three of their goals were long range ones, one of them scored by someone called Lavender, who's effort clearly threw the keeper off the scent! One exasperated home official spotted a connection between all five goals and told me, "They all came from shots!" In this period Wootton did manage some themselves, but ironically they played slightly better after the break despite creating fewer chances. Price Wallace soon scored twice more, but when an eighth goal was disallowed for offside there was some verbals exchanged off the pitch. Of course, ultimately this mattered not, as the eighth goal duly arrived later, quickly followed by the ninth. Wootton did score right at the end and their players were now knackered. Then we learnt that most of their side had played for Cranfield United Sunday on the previous night. No wonder they lost heavily!

Saturday 31st August 2019 Opening Day Fixtures.

Premier Division supported by Sportsform

AFC Kempston Town & Bedford College v Riseley Sports

Bedford Albion v Biggleswade United U23

Biggleswade FC Reserves v AFC Oakley M&DH

Cranfield United v Stevington

Shefford Town & Campton Reserves v Flitwick Town.

Wootton Blue Cross v Caldecote.

Division One

AFC Kempston Town & Bedford College Reserves v Cranfield United Reserves

Amptill Town Development v Elstow Abbey

Bedford SA v Kempston Athletic.

Houghton Athletic v Henlow

Sporting Lewsey Park v Flitwick Town Reserves

The 61 FC Luton Reserves v Eynesbury Rovers Reserves

Totternhoe Reserves v Wilstead Reserves.

Division Two supported by Hypro

Atletico Europa v Pines (Luton)

CS Rovers v Luton Leagrave AFC

Caldecote Reserves v Renhold United

Clifton v AFC Oakley M&DH Reserves

Eaton Park Rangers v Sandy

Marston Shelton Rovers Reserves v Sharnbrook

St Joseph(Saturday) v Bedford Albion Reserves

Division Three supported by Hy-Pro

Harlington Juniors v Wootton Village

Luton Allstars v Lidlington United Sports

Potton v Stopsley United

Shefford Town & Campton A v Lancot Park

Wixams Wanderers v FC Polina (Luton)

Division Four

Bedford Albion A v White Eagles

Bedford Santos v Square

Brickhill Wanderers v Sandy Reserves

Catsbrook Wanderers v Wootton Village Reserves

Revivalists v Kempston Rovers