



Bedfordshire County **Football League**

Full Time Report Season 2016-17



Premier Division supported by Sportsform

Our congratulations go to Flitwick Town in landing their first ever Premier Division title by a margin of two points; the title sealed on the penultimate weekend of the season with a 2-1 victory at Marston Shelton Rovers. Their victory being double sweet for the Town to take revenge on the Rovers becoming the first club to come away from their Football Centre base with all three points in mid-November, after which the Town then lost just three further games on home soil all season against Wilstead in mid-February, Caldecote in early April and on the last day of the season against AFC Oakley M&DH after the title had been claimed.

Yet perhaps it could be debated their title was sealed on the road where they were defeated just three times all season, at Ampthill Town Reserves, Wilstead (the only club to do the double over the champions) and at Wootton Blue Cross.

The silver medals going the way of AFC Kempston Town & Bedford College to improve on their fourth place finish in season 2015-16. A haul of nil points from six in their two encounters with Flitwick Town being the difference between silver and gold. The College boys were also to collect silver in the Bedfordshire FA Senior Trophy going down in a penalty shoot-out to The 61 FC Luton. However, gold was struck in the Biggleswade Knock-Out Cup with a cup final win over Shefford Town & Campton.

Taking up third place were last season's champions AFC Oakley M&DH who ended the season just four points adrift of Flitwick Town; their away haul of 32 points only equalled by the champions. Whilst their crown was either lost in losing on home soil four times before Christmas or indeed in April where their opening three games saw them gain just two points.

Having finished thirteenth in season 2015-16 it was a much better campaign for Caldecote this term to claim fourth spot just six points shy of the title. Like AFC Oakley M&DH their title hopes evaporated in the closing month of the season. Having started the month with a victory at Flitwick Town they were then to lose at AFC Kempston Town & Bedford College plus at home to Cranfield United before any hopes of a silver medal placing disappeared with defeat at Marston Shelton Rovers.

Rovers then five days later denied them Britannia Cup glory with a 3-0 final victory on May Bank Holiday Monday.

Dropping down from third last season to fifth spot this term were Wilstead. The final analysis of their campaign showing just the already mentioned victory at Flitwick Town coming on the road between mid-October and late March being the main reason they just failed to get seriously involved in this seasons Championship race.

Making up the top six were last season's silver medallists, Renhold United. Having opened the season with a home defeat at the hands of Flitwick Town they next tasted defeat some 11 games along the line at AFC Kempston & Bedford College by which time they were heading the league table. However this was the start of a period where just seven points were gained from their next eight outings to blow away any hopes of a second title in three seasons. Whilst a recovery was made with just one defeat at AFC Oakley M&DH coming in their next six outings that was as good as it got as they finished the season with just three points from their last five games including failing to raise a side to visit Ampthill Town Reserves on April 12th.

Having finished in ninth spot in season 2015-16 it was a climb upwards to seventh place for Shefford Town & Campton this season. Despite this rise in the league standings their record of gaining just 16 points on the road prevented them climbing any higher.

The dead middle position of eighth being claimed by newly promoted Stevington, a fine achievement which might have been all so much better had they not ended the season with a winless run of seven games.

Just goal difference behind to repeat their 2015-16 ninth place finish were Cranfield United. Just five home wins coming their way all season whilst seven were collected on the road.

In tenth spot having finished sixth in season 2015-16 were Marston Shelton Rovers. The opening half of the season bringing them just four wins before a much better second half saw them quickly dispel any fears of a relegation battle and their season ended on a glorious high with the lifting of the Britannia Cup for the very first time with a 3-0 final victory over Caldecote.

For league newcomers Wootton Blue Cross it was an eleventh placing. 24 of their 35 points seasons haul being gained on home soil. Whilst having finished tenth in season 2015-16 it was a drop of two places to twelfth place for Ickwell & Old Warden who at the turn of the year were sitting in the top half of the table before their closing 10 games brought them just three wins and a slide down the league table.

Unlucky number 13th spot going to Sharnbrook, a drop of two places from season 2015-16. Their 10 wins being shared equal five at home and five away.

Having finished in eighth spot in season 2015-16 it was a drop to fourteenth place for Ampthill Town Reserves. A position only gained via 16 points coming from their closing eight games of which six were gifted to them by Renhold United and Kempston Rovers Development failing to raise sides to meet them in mid-April.

The second from bottom position being occupied by league newcomers Kempston Rovers Development who's caused was not helped by them failing to raise a side in two of their last three outings of the season.

On bottom spot were Sandy down four places from season 2015-16. The record book will show they won just once all season but in reality this victory was gained when Kempston Rovers Development failed to raise a side to entertain them on April 15th. However, unlike other member clubs who at the first sight of trouble just simply folded or like three other Premier Division supported by Sportsform clubs when struggling to raise a side simply pulled out of the fixture they 100% completed their fixtures for which they deserve great credit.

Premier Division supported by Sportsform Final League Table Season 2016-17

POS		P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Flitwick Town	30	22	1	7	81	51	30	66 *
2	AFC Kempston Town & Bedford College	30	21	1	8	99	49	50	64
3	AFC Oakley M&DH	30	19	5	6	84	40	44	62
4	Caldecote	30	18	6	6	68	48	20	60
5	Wilstead	30	18	3	9	89	56	33	57
6	Renhold United	30	15	4	11	58	55	3	46 *
7	Shefford Town & Campton	30	14	3	13	59	51	8	45
8	Stevington	30	11	7	12	52	53	-1	40
9	Cranfield United	30	12	4	14	53	56	-3	40
10	Marston Shelton Rovers	30	11	4	15	48	47	1	37
11	Wootton Blue Cross	30	9	8	13	62	67	-5	35
12	Ickwell & Old Warden	30	11	3	16	56	74	-18	35 *
13	Sharnbrook	30	10	4	16	47	62	-15	33 *
14	Amphill Town Reserves	30	8	4	18	36	64	-28	26 *
15	Kempston Rovers Development	30	7	5	18	50	83	-33	22 *
16	Sandy	30	1	4	25	25	111	-86	6 *

[Table detail](#)

* adjustment made

Division One

Having finished third in season 2015-16 Queens Park Crescents made no mistake this term to land the league title and gain promotion to the league's top flight for the first time in their club's history. Their title winning season bringing about just two defeats all campaign, both of these coming on home soil against Copley & Bedford SA in late November and against Crawley Green Reserves in mid-February. The Crescents after sealing the title going on to complete a league and cup double with a 2-1 Centenary Cup final win over Totternhoe Reserves.

For the aforementioned league newcomers Totternhoe Reserves it was also the gathering of the league's silver medals to go alongside their Centenary Cup silver medals. The boys from Dunstable Road finishing just two points behind the Crescents and like the runners-up in the top flight their haul of just one point from their two clashes with the title winners being the difference between silver and gold. Unfortunately, with their first team operating at level 7 status in the South Midlands League, Football Association rules means they are not able to take up a place in our Premier Division supported by Sportsform for season 2017-18.

All of which leaves fellow league newcomers Crawley Green Reserves despite finishing 10 points adrift in third spot to claim the second promotion spot and top flight Bedfordshire County League football next season. The Green at one stage looking the potential league champions having opened the season on an 11 game unbeaten run until a home defeat at the hands of Queens Park Crescents just before Christmas was to signal a downfall in their season, winning just four more times all campaign.

Moving up from a sixth place finish in season 2015-16 to claim fourth spot this term just a point behind The Green were Henlow. Having drawn eight games during the season, two of which came against Crawley, the boys from Groveside will perhaps reflect upon this being the reason they will again start the season in the second tier of Bedfordshire County Football League next season rather than in the top flight.

Dropping down once place into fifth spot this season were AFC Kempston Town & Bedford College Reserves, yet their haul of 59 goals only being bettered by the top two sides.

Making up the top six were newly promoted M&DH Clapham Sports. At the end of January they were sitting second in the league standings and looking serious title contenders before their closing seven games saw them win just the once and in effect chuck the towel in by failing to raise a team to fulfill two of those games.

In seventh spot up two places from season 2015-16 were Shefford Town & Campton Reserves. The Town having an up and down season winning just four times on home soil against the six times on the road.

The eighth spot being claimed by league newcomers The 61FC Luton Reserves. At the turn of the year they had claimed just seven points before a much improved second half of the season brought them another 19 points and a climb up the league table.

The record book will show Westoning claiming ninth spot. The club folded in mid-February after competing 79% of their fixtures. Whilst in eleventh place were newly promoted Cople & Bedford SA. Just seven wins coming their way all season, the highlight of which was a 4-2 victory at Queens Park Crescents on November 26th. Sadly, this was followed by their worse defeat of the season seven days later 1-10 at home to the same Queens Park Crescents. Funny old game this football.

In the record books it will show in eleventh place Meltis Albion. Alas they like Westoning failing to make it to the finishing line. The team folded in early March some 92% into their season.

Having been relegated from the Premier Division supported by Sportsform section at the end of season 2015-16 to finish twelfth this term in Division One will be a major disappointment to Elstow Abbey. Yet like with Sandy in the top flight they are to be applauded for their perseverance and like Sandy they possess an excellent off the field team to give hope that better times are just around the corner.

Taking up the second from bottom placing were league newcomers Old Bradwell United Reserves who were to claim just four wins all season including a double over Cople & Bedford SA.

Bottom spot being reserved for Ickleford who were to fold in mid-October having failed to win any of the opening six games.

Division One Final League Table Season 2016-17

POS		P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Queens Park Crescents	24	17	5	2	67	26	41	56
2	Totternhoe Reserves	24	17	3	4	64	31	33	54
3	Crawley Green reserves	24	13	5	6	54	42	12	44
4	Henlow	24	12	8	4	56	34	22	43 *
5	AFC Kempston Tn & Bedford Coll Reserves	24	13	1	10	59	42	17	40
6	M&DH Clapham Sports	24	10	6	8	56	48	8	32 *
7	Shefford Town & Campton Reserves	24	10	3	11	42	42	0	31 *
8	The 61 FC [Luton] Reserves	24	8	3	13	42	63	-21	26 *
9	Westoning [withdrawn 79%-award matches]	24	8	1	15	42	47	-5	22 *
10	Cople & Bedford SA	24	7	2	15	52	71	-19	22 *
11	Meltis Albion [withdrawn 92%]	24	7	2	15	43	63	-20	20 *
12	Elstow Abbey	24	3	6	15	34	77	-43	13 *
13	Old Bradwell United Reserves	24	4	9	11	36	61	-25	9 *
14	Ickleford [withdrawn 23%]	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-1 *

[Table detail](#)

* adjustment made

Division Two

Having been relegated from Division One at the end of last season it's a swift return to the second tier for Riseley Sports who claimed the league title by a margin of three points. The Sportsmen losing just the twice all season at home to Lea Sports PSG in late September and to Cranfield United Reserves in mid-February. Their away record showing played 10 won 10 for a 100% season's record. Away from the league the Sportsmen also lifted this seasons Bedfordshire FA Junior Cup with a 2-0 final win over Cranfield United Reserves.

The silver medals going the way of newly promoted Wixams. The record book showing they lost just the once all season at home to Riseley Sports in mid-November and coupled with their 1-1 draw at Riseley Sports in their closing league game of the season being like in the top two flights the difference between silver and gold. However they did have a shade of luck along the way, having lost 2-0 at Kempston Hammers Sports in the middle game of the Leagues Hop this result was expunged from record when the Hammers pulled out of the league six weeks later. Wixams also having to settle for silver in this seasons Jubilee Cup final when beaten 1-0 by Sundon Park Rovers.

Taking up third spot were Lea Sports PSG. Beaten just three times all season they would have recorded a seasons unbeaten away campaign had they not have been beaten in their closing game of the season at AFC Oakley M&DH Reserves. They also enjoyed a fine run in the Hertfordshire FA Junior Cup before losing out at the Semi-final stage to Mill Lane.

Down from third spot into fourth place this season we find Cranfield United Reserves. A 1-1 home draw against Wixams on April 15th which was followed by closing the season with three straight defeats, one of which was against Riseley Sports costing them any chance of collecting more medals to go alongside their set of silver from the Bedfordshire FA Junior Cup.

Also stepping down a place from fourth into fifth place were Flitwick Town Reserves, their eight wins of the season being equally shared four at home and four on the road.

The third club moving down one spot from their 2015-16 finish to make up the top six were Atletico Europa. Their haul of just three wins on the road of which one came in their last game of the season at Sundon Park Rovers explaining their drop in the standings.

For newly promoted Caldecote Reserves it was a seventh place finish, be it eight points adrift of claiming a top six finish. Like Europa their away form was their undoing winning just the once at AFC Oakley M&DH Reserves on their last trip on the road on April 1st. No kidding.

Having been relegated from Division One at the end of season 2015-16 AFC Oakley M&DH Reserves will be disappointed by their eighth place finish. Yet they capped a fine second half of the season with the lifting of the Watson Shield with a 3-1 finals win over Marston Shelton Rovers Reserves.

Taking up ninth spot were fellow relegated Houghton Athletic, yet just four defeats on the road saw them keep clear of another automatic relegation.

In tenth place were newly promoted Sundon Park Rovers. However they will best remember season 2016-17 for winning the Jubilee Cup with a 1-0 victory over Wixams who during the season had beaten them twice in league action.

The record book will show eleventh place being taken up by Kempston Hammers Sports who folded in mid-November some 41% into their season.

Bottom spot being occupied by Potton Town with a point total of minus six points after failing in the closing month of the season to field a side for any of their scheduled five away games.

Division Two Final League Table Season 2016-17

POS		P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Riseley Sports	20	14	4	2	52	23	29	46
2	Wixams	20	12	7	1	59	25	34	43
3	Lea Sports PSG	20	10	7	3	41	27	14	36 *
4	Cranfield United Reserves	20	11	2	7	40	38	2	35
5	Flitwick Town Reserves	20	8	6	6	36	29	7	30
6	Atletico Europa	20	9	1	10	45	51	-6	28
7	Caldecote Reserves	20	5	5	10	35	45	-10	20
8	AFC Oakley M&DH Reserves	20	6	2	12	29	53	-24	19 *
9	Houghton Athletic	20	4	7	9	33	42	-9	17 *
10	Sundon Park Rovers	20	4	4	12	30	54	-24	16
11	Kempston Hammers Sports [withdrawn 41%]	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-1 *
12	Potton Town	20	2	5	13	25	38	-13	-6 *
Table detail		* adjustment made							

Division Three

Having finished fifth in season 2015-16 Renhold United Reserves made no mistake this season to land the title by a margin of seven points. United losing just three times all season remarkably these three defeats coming in their opening three encounters of the season before they went on a 15 game unbeaten run to claim their crown.

Taking the silver medals having finished third last season were Wilstead Reserves. Their success being virtually down to them remaining unbeaten on home soil with the most important result being in their final home encounter of the season where they drew 2-2 with Bedford Albion to ensure it would be them and not the Albion who would pick up the silverware.

So for newly promoted Bedford Albion it was third spot just a point shy of the silverware. The Albion looking real title contenders until they finished their campaign by failing to win any of their last five games albeit three of them ending all square.

Having been relegated from Division Two at the end of season 2015-16 Marston Shelton Rovers Reserves were to claim fourth spot. Their home form showing just two defeats at the hands of Renhold United Reserves and Bedford Albion thus their away record of just two wins being the reason why at least the silver medals were not collected. However a set of silver medals were to be claimed in the Watson Shield where they were defeated by AFC Oakley M&DH Reserves.

Also relegated from Division Two at the end of season 2015-16 were Kempston Athletic who claimed fifth spot. The Athletic remaining unbeaten on home soil all season but having won their opening two away games of the season they then lost their next seven to never really get into the promotion race.

Making up the top six were Sandy Albion (previously Division Four champions Mid Beds Tigers in season 2015-16) with just three wins from their opening eight games they like Kempston Athletic never really getting into the promotion race. Sadly the club has now folded and will not appear in season 2017-18.

In seventh place we find another of the promoted teams in Caldecote A. Alas just one win from their opening five games and one win from their closing eight games being the reason they didn't fair better. Whilst up from a ninth place 2015-16 season finish to take eighth place were Shefford Town & Campton A, being the only team not to draw all season their total of 13 defeats becoming the highest of all the Division Three sides during season 2016-17.

In ninth spot we find Wootton Village who won just the three times all season, the highlight of which was their sole away win of the season at Bedford Albion on April 8th.

Having finished season 2015-16 in sixth place it was a drop to tenth place for White Eagles. Just four wins coming their way all season and all of them being recorded on home soil.

Whilst finishing bottom of the pile were AFC Dunton who folded in early December having played just nine games.

Division Three Final League Table Season 2016-17

POS		P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Renhold United Reserves	18	12	3	3	50	26	24	39
2	Wilstead Reserves	18	9	5	4	49	32	17	32
3	Bedford Albion	18	9	6	3	49	24	25	31 *
4	Marston Shelton Rovers Reserves	18	9	3	6	51	33	18	30
5	Kempston Athletic	18	7	4	7	59	62	-3	25
6	Sandy Albion	18	8	4	6	32	38	-6	25 *
7	Caldecote A	18	7	1	10	45	56	-11	22
8	Shefford Town & Campton 'A'	18	5	0	13	31	60	-29	15
9	Wootton Village	18	3	4	11	17	41	-24	12 *
10	White Eagles	18	4	4	10	36	47	-11	10 *
11	AFC Dunton [withdrawn 45%]	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

[Table detail](#) * adjustment made

Division Four

The Division Four crown was to go the way of league newcomers CS Rovers. Just two defeats coming their way all season and both being on home soil against Henlow Reserves and Clifton in the opening six weeks of the season. They finished the season unbeaten in their last 11 games of which nine were won; Rovers duly landing the title by a six point margin.

Taking the silver medals were Henlow Reserves who in season 2015-16 had finished in second from bottom place. Defeated just four times all season on home soil against Clifton and CS Rovers plus AFC Kempston Town & Bedford A who also inflicted upon them their sole defeat on the road during the campaign.

Just a point behind in third spot were Clifton having been relegated from Division Three. Remarkably they won eight of their nine away encounters only dropping points in a 2-2 draw at Flitwick Town A in mid-March but five defeats on home soil prevented them claiming an automatic promotion place to reclaim their lost Division Two status.

In fourth spot were league newcomers Harlington albeit some 10 points adrift of third spot Clifton. Their opening half of the season bringing about just two victories before the second half of the season saw them remain unbeaten and dropping points against only CS Rovers (twice) and Henlow Reserves.

Taking up the dead middle position of fifth were AFC Kempston Town & Bedford College A who had finished sixth in season 2015-16. Alas just two wins on the road preventing them from staking a claim in the promotion race.

In sixth place this term were Dinamo Flitwick. At the end of October their record of six wins and two draws had seen them in at least the promotion stakes until their season took a major dive with just three points being gathered in a victory at Sandy Reserves in late January being their total haul of points from their closing 10 games.

For Flitwick Town A it was a repeat of their 2015-16 season finish in seventh spot, winning just seven times all season of which just two came on home soil.

Having been relegated from Division Three at the end of season 2015-16 Sandy Reserves could fair no better than eighth place. However, considering the plight of their first team this was not perhaps surprising and they will not of course forget April 8th in hurry on which day they ran out 12-3 home winners over AFC Kempston Town & Bedford College A.

In second from bottom place having finished the previous season fourth were Stevington Reserves, just two home wins and three wins on the road coming their way all season.

Taking up the bottom spot for the second consecutive season were Lidlington United Sports. Again they should be applauded for refusing to give up in a season where two of their only three wins came in their closing three games at home to Dinamo Flitwick and away at Flitwick Town A.

Division Four Final League Table Season 2016-17

POS		P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	CS Rovers	18	14	2	2	68	26	42	44
2	Henlow Reserves	18	12	2	4	59	24	35	38
3	Clifton	18	11	2	5	43	30	13	35
4	Harlington	18	8	5	5	65	40	25	25 *
5	AFC Kempston Town & Bedford College 'A'	18	7	3	8	49	53	-4	24
6	Dinamo Flitwick	18	7	2	9	33	68	-35	23
7	Flitwick Town 'A'	18	7	1	10	40	48	-8	18 *
8	Sandy Reserves	18	5	2	11	41	56	-15	17
9	Stevington Reserves	18	5	2	11	32	57	-25	17
10	Lidlington United Sports	18	3	1	14	29	57	-28	9 *
Table detail		* adjustment made							

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