



BEDFORDSHIRE COUNTY FOOTBALL LEAGUE

PRESIDENT: MR B. WATSON

HON GENERAL SECRETARY: MR G. B. SNELSON

TELEPHONE 01234-317597

MINUTES: MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

THURSDAY 5TH MARCH 2026

7pm ELSTOW PLAYING FIELD PAVILION

LEAGUE SUPPORTERS: SPORTSFORM and HBC LOGISTICS



MEMBERS: P Francis [Chair with Registration and Fixture responsibilities], M Baxter, S Dutton, B Hallybone, R Horswell [Referee Secretary], K Redman, GB Snelson [General Secretary/Treasurer].
CLUB REPRESENTATIVES: A Anderson [Kempston Athletic], D Gauntlett [Shefford Town & Campton], K Poulton [Elstow Abbey], **LIFE-VICE PRESIDENT:** R Simmonds. **APOLOGIES:** BT Watson [President], PJ Onion [Life-Vice President]. R Everitt [61FC [Luton], P Smailes [Biggleswade FC].

A. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

- Club Representatives declared an interest in any matter concerning their Club.

1. PREVIOUS MEETING

- ❖ The minutes of the Management Committee meeting held on **5th February 2026** were agreed and signed as a true record.

2. MATTERS ARISING

- None

3. CORRESPONDENCE

- ❖ **The Football Association:** League Development Plan template and required submission date. General Secretary to complete initial draft.
- ❖ **Bedfordshire FA:** General Correspondence only.

4. FINANCE

- ❖ **LEAGUE BANK COMMUNITY ACCOUNT:** Opening Balance on 1st June 2025 = **£59,191.68**
 - LEAGUE BANK ACCOUNT – new account: **£30,000** has been transferred into a 182-day fixed term deposit with a maturity date of **3rd August 2026** and an expected interest receipt of **£305.16**
 - Closing Balance on 28th February 2026 = **£16,840.07**, a LOSS over the period of **£12,351.61**.
NOTES: Payment of £2,813.40 for 150 match footballs [SPIRIT] paid in January 2026.

- ❖ **Review of payments due 28th February 2026 EXTENDED TO 4TH MARCH:** The following were not paid by the deadline set and

CLUB	FINE/ cost	REFERENCE
Westoning Club FC	£40	2025.12-09 – FIXTURES SUSPENDED
Westoning Club FC	£40	2026.01-09 – FIXTURES SUSPENDED
Queens Park Crescents - post	£3.70	PAID – CLUB £15 IN CREDIT

- **Westoning Club FC** paid the outstanding money in the afternoon of 5th March, too late to reinstate their Watson Shield tie Westoning Club Blues versus Ampthill Town Colts. The Committee decided the tie be awarded to **Ampthill Town Colts**.
- ❖ **Brache Phoenix:** Club debt currently in the hands of Bedfordshire FA. Update required from BFA.

5. TROPHIES & MEMENTOES

- ❖ Nothing to report

6. TRANSFERS

Keane Mcauley.	The 61 FC Luton Reserves to Caldecote
Eryk Prystupa.	Totternoe Reserves to LU Donz.
Thomas Nunn.	Stopsley United to St Joseph (Saturday)
James Vines.	The 61 FC Luton Reserves to AFC Clophill.
Logan Burton.	Caddington to Stopsley United.
James Sheridan.	Harlington Juniors to St Josephs (Saturday)
Jason Kiasala.	LU Donz to Shefford Town & Campton Reserves.
Jake Bird.	The 61 FC Luton Reserves to Shefford Town & Campton Reserves.

Sege Kadji.	Elstow Abbey to Athletic FC.
Luke Smith.	Totternoe Reserves to Dunstable Wanderers.
Colin Merritt.	Bedford SA to Turvey.
Jayden Williams.	Biggleswade United Reserves to Shefford Town & Campton Res.
Michael Allen.	Biggleswade FC Reserves to Bedford SA.
Thomas Cooksley.	Harlington Juniors to Biggleswade United Reserves.
Phil Saxby.	Westoning FC to Lu Donz.
Thomas Merritt.	Bedford SA to Turvey.
Niall Quigley.	Bedford SA to Turvey.

7. ALTERATIONS TO HANDBOOK

- ❖ All Club details are included in the revised 2025-2026 Directory. Contact the General Secretary /Treasurer by email if further changes are required.

8. REFEREE REPORT & REFEREEING MATTERS

- ❖ Still maintaining 100% coverage with difficulties.
- ❖ For season 2026-2027, the **Requirements for entry into the Premier Division** of the League will be amended to re-introduce the requirement to teams to provide a trained Assistant Referee, clearly identified and not a substitute who plays on the day or team manager acting in that capacity on the day. The fine for non-compliance will also be reviewed.
- ❖ With immediate effect, the Committee agreed to a budget of £1000 to enable the League to pay the fees of Registered Referees when appointed by the League as Assistant Referees. This will not include the League Cup Finals where the match official's fees are deducted from the match receipts. The budget will be reviewed for season 2026-2027.

9. FIXTURE REPORT

- ❖ **SEE ALSO ITEM 4 ABOVE,**

- ❖ **FREE WEEKEND GRANTED:** Saturday 28th March 2026: **Amphill Town Colts**
- ❖ **FREE WEEKEND REFUSED:**
 - ▶ **Athletic FC** request made on 7th February 2026 for 21st February 2026.
 - ▶ **Lea Sports PSG** request made on 7th February 2026 for 28th February 2026.
 - ▶ **Luton Phoenix** request made on 26th February 2026 for 21st March 2026.
 - ▶ **Wootton Blue Cross 'A'** request for Saturday 28th March 2026 having already been granted a free weekend on the 15th November 2025.
- ❖ **UNPLAYED MATCHES:**
 - ▶ Saturday 7th February 2026. Watson Shield. Flitwick Town U18 v Bedford Albion Development. **Flitwick Town U18** unable to raise a team.
 - Tie awarded to **Bedford Albion Development**. Bedford Youth Saturday League informed.
 - ▶ Saturday 7th February 2026. Division One. Clifton v FC Haynes. **Clifton** unable to raise a team.
 - Match awarded to **FC Haynes**, score 0-0.
 - **Clifton** deducted one [1] penalty point and fined £25 as per rule, see item 15 below.
 - ▶ Saturday 14th February 2026. Division Two. Wixams Wanderers v Westoning Reds. **Westoning Reds** unable to play the fixture due to being under a Beds FA team suspension.
 - Match awarded to **Wixams Wanderers**, score 0-0.
 - **Westoning Reds** deducted three [3] penalty points and fined £50 as per rule, see item 15 below
 - ▶ Saturday 14th February 2026. Division Three. Flitwick Town 'A' v Caldecote 'A'. **Caldecote 'A'** unable to raise a team.
 - Match awarded to **Flitwick Town 'A'**, score 0-0.
 - **Caldecote 'A'** deducted three [3] penalty points and fined £50 as per rule, see item 15 below
 - ▶ Saturday 28th February 2026. Jubilee Cup Quarter Final. AFC Kempston Hammers v Stotfold Juniors. **Stotfold Juniors** unable to raise a team.
 - Tie awarded to **AFC Kempston Town Hammers**, score 0-0.
 - **Stotfold Juniors** fined £25 as per rule, see item 15 below.
 - ▶ Saturday 28th February 2026. Division Three. Amphill Town Colts v Wilstead. **Wilstead** unable to raise a side.
 - Match awarded to **Amphill Town Colts**, score 0-0
 - **Wilstead** deducted one [1] penalty point and fined £25 as per rule, see item 15 below.

10. REGISTRATIONS, RESULTS, PRESS & MEDIA REPORT

- ❖ **CHARGE NOTICES**
 - ▶ **Bedford SA** : In breach of Cup rule 3B in having in their Jubilee Cup tie against St Josephs [Saturday] on 31st January 2026 [won 4-3 penalties] played Stephane Bonheur who having earlier in the season played for Caddington in this seasons Bedfordshire FA Senior Trophy was not eligible to play.
 - Tie awarded to **St.Josephs [Saturday] FC**

- **Bedford SA** removed from the Jubilee Cup and fined £20 as per rules, see item 15 below.
- ▶ **Shefford Town & Campton Reserves:** In breach of league rule 18M in that in their game against Stopsley United on Saturday 21st February 2026 they played one Daniel Bright who at the time of the game was not a registered member of the team for season 2025-26.
 - Match result to stand.
 - **Shefford Town & Campton Reserves** deducted one [1] penalty point and fined £20 as per rule, see item 15 below.

❖ **REPORT NOTICES**

- ▶ **Clubs in breach of League Rule 20C in failing to give notice confirmation of their fixture by the required deadline.**
 - Saturday 21st February 2026. **Clifton**
 - Saturday 21st February 2026. **Biggleswade FC Reserves**
 - Saturday 28th February 2026. **Baldock Victoria [WARNED]**
 - All Clubs/Teams warned or fined £15, as per rule, see item 15 below.
- ▶ **Clubs in breach of League Rule 20E in failing to notify the match referee of their postponed game without delay. Also failed to pay referee full fee for attending the ground – Rule 23F**
 - Saturday 21st February 2026. **Lea Sports PSG v Thurleigh.** (emails of mitigation considered)
 - Club warned, as per rule, see item 15 below.
 - Referee attended the ground: Fine under rule 23F not imposed but club to pay referee full fee of £45 – Club to pay League and League to pay referee, see item 15 below.
- ▶ **Clubs in breach of League Rule 21B in failing to report the result of their game into the SMS text system by the required deadline.**
 - Saturday 7th February 2026. **Amptill Town Colts [WARNED]**
 - Saturday 14th February 2026. **Caldecote Reserves [WARNED]. Stopsley United.**
 - All Clubs/Teams warned or fined £15, as per rule, see item 15 below.
- ▶ **Clubs in breach of League Rule 21C in failing to load their Full Time Result Sheet by the required deadline.**
 - Saturday 31st January 2026. **Stopsley United Reserves.**
 - Saturday 7th February 2026. **Athletic FC. Caddington Reserves.**
 - Saturday 14th February 2026. **Elstow Abbey. Thurleigh [WARNED].**
 - Saturday 21st February 2026. **AFC Oakley. FC Haynes [WARNED]. Cranfield United Reserves [WARNED]. Queens Park Crescents and Reserves. Westoning Blues.**
 - All Clubs/Teams warned or fined £15, as per rule, see item 15 below.
- ▶ **Clubs in breach of League Rule 21C - incomplete online match notification not related to the names of the players**
 - Saturday 31st January 2026. **Queens Park Crescents** (failing to load red card/ two yellows Mohammed Omar)
 - Saturday 21st February 2026. **Athletic FC** (failing to load a red card for Serge Kadji)
 - Both Clubs fined £10, as per rule, see item 15 below.

- ❖ Registrations made at midday 28th February 2026: **2822** [3136 season 2024-25]

OTHER MATTERS

- ❖ **Baldock Victoria, Stopsley United.** Replacement team sheet pad: Clubs to pay £ 3.60, see item 15 below.

11. NATIONAL LEAGUE SYSTEM including FACILITIES

- ❖ Pitch Barrier supplies- post and rope. Small supply in stock.
- ❖ Team Shelters – no current activity.
- ❖ FACILITY CHECKS will be carried out at **Harlington Juniors** and **Stotfold Juniors** once HOME fixtures
- ❖ **PREMIER DIVISION ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:** The previously minuted proposed changes, together with any final changes, will be presented at the 2026 Annual General Meeting:

12. REPRESENTATIVE FOOTBALL

- ❖ Nothing to report.

13. ENGLAND FOOTBALL ACCREDITED LEAGUE

- ❖ Non-accredited clubs continuing into season 2025-2026 will not be eligible for support [financial or goods] from the League until accredited.

14. SAFEGUARDING

- ❖ **MATTERS ARISING:** Dan Gauntlett reported his concern over the personnel in the technical areas being DBS compliant. Arrangements were made for a copy of the team sheets to be sent to him by Richard Horswell for checking [Premier League Only]; matter continuing.

15. SUMMARY OF FINES and COSTS

- ❖ Summary of fines levied at the **MARCH 2026** meeting:

CLUB	FINE/ cost	REFERENCE
AFC Oakley	£15	2026.03-01
Atletic FC	£25	2026.03-02
Baldock Victoria [Bufs]	£3.60	2026.03-03
Bedford SA	£20	2026.03-04
Biggleswade FC Reserves	£15	2026.03-05
Caddington Reserves	£15	2026.03-06
Caldecote 'A'	£125	2026.03-07
Clifton	£55	2026.03-08
Elstow Abbey	£15	2026.03-09
Lea Sports PSG	£45	2026.03-10
Queens Park Crescents	£25	2026.03-11
Shefford Town & Campton Reserves	£20	2026.03-12
Stopsley United	£33.60	2026.03-13
Stotfold Juniors	£25	2026.03-14
Westoning Club	£140	2026.03-15
Wilstead	£25	2026.03-16

ALL PAYMENTS DUE 27TH MARCH 2026

Payment by Bank Transfer [BACS] - **use relevant reference shown.**

Account Name: Bedfordshire County Football League

ACCOUNT: 44053660 SORT CODE: 30-90-90 [Lloyds]

RULE 6[J] Subject to a Club's right of appeal in accordance with Rule 7, all fines and charges must be paid within 14 days of the date of notification of the decision. Any Club failing to do so will be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff. Further failure to pay the fine including the additional fine within a further 14 days will result in fixtures being withdrawn until such time as the outstanding fines are paid.

16. APPLICATIONS and WITHDRAWALS

- ❖ **APPLICATIONS:** Numerous enquiries have been made.
- ❖ **WITHDRAWALS: Westoning Reds.** Fined £75 as per rule, see item 15 above. Club deposit cannot be used as payment as it is required by Westoning Blues [reserve team]. Following a check on the playing history of all Westoning Club players, **Westoning Blues** allowed to continue with the following proviso:
- ▶ **RULE 18L[b]** A FIRST TEAM [in this case WESTONING REDS] player is one who has played in the LATEST *qualifying league or cup match for the first team, and only three such players IN TOTAL are allowed to play in any other team, or teams, of the Club in a match immediately following that first team match.
- ❖ **WITHDRAWALS: Caldecote 'A'.** Fined £75 as per rule, see item 15 above. Club deposit cannot be used as payment as it is required by other Caldecote teams.

17. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- ❖ From the small stock of Match Footballs still held, the League will sell these to Clubs at the cost price of £18.75 per ball. There are approximately 15 balls for sale on a first come-first served basis. Requests to the General Secretary/Treasurer.
- ❖ **RULE CHANGES:** The committee suggested rule changes may be required with regards to Winter kick off times [rule 20A] and those relating to the requirement to switch venue in cases of unfit pitches [rule 23D]. Management Committee, and all Clubs, tasked with proposing rule changes for possible submission to AGM and draft proposals to Bedfordshire FA by 1st April 2026.
- ❖ There being no other business the Chair closed the meeting at 8.21 p.m.
- ❖ G. B. Snelson, General Secretary/Treasurer
- ❖

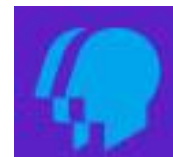
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