



Bedfordshire Football League
December 2008 Newsletter



We begin our last newsletter of 2008 with our tradition Christmas Quiz for which the answers will appear on our website www.bedfordshirefootballleague.co.uk from January 14th 2009 onwards.

- 1) Which seven Boys or Girls names can be found in the title of the existing Bedfordshire Football League club titles.
- 2) Who were the last teams no longer in Bedfordshire Football League membership to have won, A) The Britannia Cup B) The Aubrey Tingey Cup C) The Jubilee Cup D) The Watson Shield
- 3) What has League Press and Media Secretary Peter Francis not got on his Football CV that all other members of The Bedfordshire Football League Management Committee have on theirs.
- 4) What can be spotted from only the home ground of just one Bedfordshire Football League Division Three side that cannot be seen from the other thirteen.
- 5) Which five sides conceded over 100goals during the 2007-08 Bedfordshire Football League season.
- 6) Which former Bedford & District League club shared its name with a now long gone famous sporting venue.
- 7) How many League's are there in the current 2008-09 season National League System at Level 7.
- 8) At the start of which season did The Bedford & District Football League change its name to The Bedfordshire Football League.
- 9) Who can lay claim to have netted the first ever Bedfordshire Football League Premier Division hatrick.
- 10) Which five teams started that first ever Bedfordshire Football League Premier Division season and are no longer in League membership.
- 11) Which ten clubs started that first ever Bedfordshire Football League season and are no now longer in League membership.

- 12) Which three clubs started that first ever Bedfordshire Football League season and still remain in League membership under a changed name.

Campton FC Kings Of The Bridge

Premier Division Supported By Sportsform Campton FC represented the Bedfordshire Football League in a prestigious 7 a side tournament on Wednesday 3rd December at the new training ground of Premier Division Chelsea after their manager Roy Hayday had entered them into a competition via the Football Mitoo website.

The competition was sponsored by King Of Shaves and was attended by current Chelsea and England captain John Terry who prior to the start of the competition held an impromptu training session with all of the clubs involved then stayed in attendance to watch the games and have his photo taken with all the players taking part.

Campton were to emerge the winners from the six competing clubs, one of whom boasted in its line-up Chris Kamara the ex pro and now Sky Sports Reporter.



FA Carlsberg National League System Cup 2009/10

In the Preliminary Round draw for games to be played by the 11th April 2009, The Bedfordshire Football League face an away tie against The Mid Sussex League.

The Mid-Sussex League is sponsored by Gary Hooper Holt LLP and their set-up sees them running with nine divisions and over a hundred teams for the current 2008-09 season.

Currently heading their Premier Division is the third team of Hassocks FC whose two other sides ply their trade in The Sussex County League.

At this stage of the previous competition The Mid-Sussex League netted a 3-1 home win over The Molten Sparten South Midlands Football League.

Other games involving our near neighbours brings the following ties.

Wearside League v Cambridgeshire County League
Northampton Combination v Peterborough & District League
Northampton Town League v Hampshire Premier League
Jersey Football Combination v Sparten South Midlands League (Div2)

Presentation Of Awards To Ickwell & Old Warden FC Secretary Peter Bygraves

Following their home Premier Division Supported By Sportsform game with Campton on Saturday December 20th, the focus of attention in the clubhouse afterwards was not about the previous ninety minutes play but upon the remarkable achievement of home club secretary Peter Bygraves in completing 50years services with Ickwell & Warden FC as club secretary.

On hand from The Football Association was Ray Berridge to present him with The FA Association's medal whilst on behalf of The Bedfordshire Football Association their Vice-Chairman, Terry Sadler presented Peter with an engraved clock and to make it a hattrick of awards The Bedfordshire Football League's Vice-Chairman and Treasurer, Barry Watson presented him with a engraved Brandy Goblet and bottle of Brandy.



Terry Sadler, Peter Byraves, Barry Watson and Ray Berridge

Premier Division Supported By Sportsform Half-Time Report

The final whistle's of December 20th were in effect to bring to a close the first half of the season and an appropriate time to reflect on the happenings of the past three months plus give us a chance to look into that much used crystal ball to view how the second half of the season will pan out.

Whilst with just one lap of the course ran and the clubs now embarking on that second and final lap, it does appear that already the race for the championship title is down to just three clubs, current league leaders Caldecote, defending champions Campton and the current holders of third spot in the table Meltis Corinthians.

Caldecote will go into the second half of the season seeking a record equalling eighth title some eight points clear at the head of the standings but Campton in second spot have two games in hand on the boys from Harvey Close whilst Meltis Corinthians trail by just ten points yet with three games in hand.

So who will come out on top ? well Caldecote are currently on a ten game winning run and whilst at the moment you would fancy them to beat anyone, we all know they are bound by the laws of average to have a little blip before the seasons end and when and if that moment arrives then the other two clubs will have to seize their chances to turn things around, Campton we all know will never give up on their hopes of retaining their title and are perhaps the biggest dangers as Meltis Corinthians are already having problems with their new pitch at Miller Road which as caused them a couple of postponements and should the early months of the New Year turn out to be wet ones then their backlog of fixtures could well just catch up with them in the final push, whilst the home grounds of their two rivals are usually in the wet weather the last two venues to be waterlogged off.

So will it be Caldecote or Campton ? ask me again at the start of March is my answer as I would not like to burden either club with my selection at this moment of time, but yes I do think Meltis Corinthians will finish third.

For the other eleven clubs the margin going into the New Year sees Blunham in fourth spot and bottom of the table Bedford Sports Athletic separated by just ten points and whilst not for one moment do I see Blunham in danger of Division One football next term at the same time I'm not suggesting Bedford Sports Athletic are top six candidates come the end of April, all I will say is there are plenty of so called six pointers between now and then that will almost certainly see the league table change on a weekly basis.

So who will make up the top six, well you could well argue the current holders of fourth to sixth spot, Blunham, Renhold United and Oakley Sports will still be there come the end of April with perhaps Ickwell & Old Warden plus Sharnbrook has their main dangers.

That of course leaves us with a possible six clubs looking at Division One football next term, well on what I have seen and heard so far Dunton will not finish in the bottom two and whilst they are in second from bottom spot at the moment Wilshamstead, I fancy will pull clear so if AFC Kempston Town and Riseley Sports quickly start to regain their early season form which I suspect they might that leaves us with a bottom two of Henlow and Bedford Sports Athletic, but wait a moment have not Henlow won their last two away games and Sports Athletic two of their last four outings, which brings us back to those six pointer games and myself really owning up to not really having a crystal ball to find the outcome.

Division One Half-Time Review

My pre-season selection for the 2008-09 Division One title was Flitwick Town and with them now leading the league table by three points from second place Campton Reserves on whom they also have a game in hand and six points clear of Meltis Albion who admittedly have played one game less I see no reason to change my mind that Flitwick Town will be crowned Division One champions come the end of April 2009.

For me its just a case of working out who will be runners-up and whilst you would feel Meltis Albion are the favourites to take that accolade, they like The Corinthian Boys in the top flight will not want to see a wet early New Year and more postponements of their home Miller Road fixtures to leave them playing mid-week catch up come the tail end of the season.

If Meltis Albion don't claim that second spot I have a sneaking feeling both Westoning Recreation Club and Woburn might just have a say in its outcome but then again both of their home venue's suffer in the wet weather so perhaps we should look elsewhere for the runners-up, well on the evidence of my own eyes over the past month or so I would certainly rule out the chances of both Ickwell & Old Warden Reserves who were poor when I saw them in Bedfordshire FA Junior Cup action at Caldecote A and Stevington who were even worse at Sandy Reserves last weekend, that then leaves us to chose between Campton Reserves and AFC Kempston Town Reserves and whilst I've not yet seen Town Reserves, Campton looked a fair side when viewed at Caldecote at the start of the season and I will stick my neck out and chose them should The Albion fail to deliver.

So who is in danger of the drop, well I don't think it will be Kempston or Kempston Hammers Sports who I see more likely as top six candidates rather than bottom six material but even stronger fancy a mid-table slot for both clubs, leaving us with just five sides to battle out the relegation fight, of these again on recent evidence of my own eyes I can see both Caldecote Reserves and Sandy Reserves pulling clear so its down to any two from three between Marston Social, Royal Oak Kempston and Elstow Abbey and having selected The Social to push for promotion pre-season I will keep the faith and select the other two to occupy the bottom two slots come the seasons end, hang on have not The Royal Oak Kempston won two of its last three away games, yes they have, please Santa bring that crystal ball this year.

Division Two Half-Time Review

Having said that I was more than happy to stick with my pre-season selection in the title race in Division One, the situation with my pre-season choice in Division Two is looking even rosier with Blunham Reserves heading into the New Year some nine points clear at the head of the table and still unbeaten this season, so no I'm not changing my mind I still think Blunham Reserves will be crowned Division Champions, no not at the end of April but more likely sometime during March 2009.

So who will be there runners-up, well I selected Great Barford pre-season and I'm still happy to stick with that choice, seeing Meppershall Jurassic and Potton Wanderers has there main dangers with a possible outside chance of either Kings AFC or Marabese Ceramics joining in the promotion mix.

That said it then would leave Meltis Corinthians Reserves, Marston Shelton Rovers , Blue Chip and Clifton to fight out the mid-table placing and us with a choice of two from four for the drop, of these currently Oakley Sports Reserves head the way and again only on the evidence of my own eyes I see no reason why Mulberry Bush will not also pull clear of the danger zone to leave Saffron and Lidlinton United Sports in the bottom two slots, please Santa that crystal ball will do nicely.

Division Three Half-Time Review

Well what a fool I've been should I not have jogged into Joe Corals in August with my Bedfordshire League Yankee has my selection pre-season in Division Three was Leighton United who like Flitwick Town in One and Blunham Reserves in Two lead the league table going into the second half of the season, come on Campton what are you doing by only being in second spot in the top flight race.

Again I'm happy to stick with United for the title and see Marsh Leys has their biggest dangers (don't need a crystal ball for that one) but the fight for that third slot looks far from clear crystal ball or no crystal ball with perhaps six sides in with a shout, Three Tuns Galacticos, Meppershall AFC, Renhold Village, Caldecote A, Westoning Recreation Club Reserves and Dunton Reserves with my money going onto Meppershall AFC.

Further down the table you would fancy Wilshamstead Reserves and Riseley Sports Reserves to climb a few spots during the second half of the season and whilst it will take a miracle for Kempston Athletic to move off of the bottom slot but who will finish just above them is well open to debate yet it could well be Flitwick Town Reserves who will find come the end of the season that both Sandy A and Stewartby Village are just above them in the league standings if not even higher in the final table.