

Bedfordshire County **Football League**



Season 2009-10

News Bulletin Number 25



Action Review from Saturday 2nd January 2010

Britannia Cup 1st Round

On an afternoon when the ties at Rectory Road, between Campton and Renhold United plus the scheduled Sharnbrook v Blunham at Lodge Road were frozen off, current Cup holders Caldecote safely made it into the last eight with a 4-1 home win over Oakley Sports. In front as early as the 10th minute with a goal from Mark Phillips, Caldecote were to double their lead on 20 minutes thanks to a strike from Matt Basta. The visitors however came back in the game when Ben Brown netted on 35 minutes, yet their hopes lasted just nine minutes until Dave Daniels restored the home sides two goal advantage to take them in at half-time 3-1 ahead, Jack Warwick then putting the icing on the cake 10 minutes from time when he was on hand to tap in goal number four after a Paul Lawrence shot had come back off the goalposts into his path.

Just down the road on The Green, things were however much tighter before Biggleswade United Reserves emerged penalty shoot-out winners over hosts Ickwell & Old Warden. United were to take an earlier lead courtesy of an own goal before a brace of goals from Steve Thomas shot the home side 2-1 ahead, United with strikes from James Honeyman and Dan Bean then raced 3-2 ahead, a lead that was to disappear before the half-time break when Thomas completed his hat-trick.

Yet after an opening half of six goals, the second half was to fly by goalless to take the tie into extra time. Thomas striking first to take Ickwell & Old Warden back into the lead in the opening period until with just 10 minutes left Jack Dix made it 4-4, to give us a penalty shoot-out. United with successful kicks from Honeyman, Dix, Tony Norman and Neil Carr emerging the 4-3 winners as netted home kicks from Gary Fil, Andrew Vallom and Nick Jones proved insufficient due to a miss by none other than four goal man Thomas who saw his effort come back off the woodwork.

The day's final tie at Jubilee Playing Fields, seeing Wilshamstead require extra time to overcome AFC Kempston Town, goals from Kevin Butler and Michael Jones were to see the home side lead 2-0 with just five minutes left on the watch to play, but Town strikes from Matty Smith and Alex Russell ensured the 90 minute mark arrived with a 2-2 scoreline. However it was to be Wilshamstead's day when further goals were added by Butler, Jones, Glen Tumulty and Paul Jones in extra time that were only

replied to by Smith with his second strike of the afternoon to take them to a 6-2 victory.

Premier Division supported by Sportsform

The lone scheduled game at Crawley Road between hosts Woburn and Dunton being postponed due to a frozen pitch.

Centenary Cup 1st Round

On an afternoon when just four of the scheduled six ties were to go ahead, all were to end in home victories. Leading the way were Meltis Albion with a 4-2 win over current Division One league leaders Flitwick Town. Town were to draw first blood, when a goal from Martin Byrne placed them in front after just five minutes, but home strikes from Daniel Wells and Charlie Betts raced The Albion 2-1 ahead until Dean Warren levelled matters just seven minutes before the break. Albion however were in no mood to be denied as goals from Asa Garlick and Darren Ashpole in the opening nine minutes of the new period saw them home and into the hat for the last eight draw.

Over at Groveside, Joe Fallano was Henlow's twogoal hero as they overcame Marston Social 2-1. Fallano netting first with a header on 20 minutes before hitting a 30yard rocket 10 minutes from the break to take them 2-0 clear, a James Armstrong penalty on 55 minutes being The Social's lone reply.

Also into the last eight are Blunham Reserves, 3-1 victors over Kempston. Dan Whitten giving Blunham an early lead which was to be cancelled out by a strike from Alec Gooby until goals either side of the break from Jason Rainbow and Carl Warner took Blunham to victory.

For Bedford Sports Athletic, it was the need to come from behind to beat Sandy 2-1. Andrew Wren from the penalty spot on 35 minutes shooting Sandy in front only to see Ian Asplin level matters just 60 seconds later. John Rees then netted the winning goal 15 minutes from time.

The day's other two ties, Kempston Hammers v Leighton United and Stevington v AFC Kempston Town Reserves falling victims to frozen pitches.

Division One

In the day's lone fixture, FC Meppershall moved themselves two places up the league table into seventh spot with a 2-1 home win over Ickwell & Old Warden Reserves, who remain just one place off the bottom of the table. Danny Wing after 22 minutes setting Meppershall on their way to the three points, which were all but won when Jason Nice doubled the lead 20 minutes from time, the lone visitors reply coming via Grant Humberstone eight minutes from time.

Division One League Table at 2nd January 2010

16 Teams	Games Played	Games Won	Games Drawn	Games Lost	Goals For	Goals Against	Goal Difference	Points
Flitwick Town	16	11	1	4	35	22	+13	34
Leighton United	15	10	2	3	44	22	+22	32
Caldecote Reserves	14	9	1	4	39	24	+15	28
Marston Social	15	8	3	4	34	24	+10	27
Kempston	14	9	0	5	40	33	+7	27
Meltis Albion	14	8	2	4	29	22	+7	26
FC Meppershall	16	7	2	7	46	44	+2	23
Bedford Sports Athletic	15	6	3	6	35	29	+6	21
Blunham Reserves	16	6	3	7	25	35	-10	21
Henlow	14	5	2	7	26	37	-11	17
AFC Kempston Town Reserves	14	5	2	7	24	37	-13	17
Sandy	15	5	1	9	32	32	+0	16
Campton Reserves	16	5	0	11	32	46	-14	15
Stevington	16	4	2	10	31	48	-17	14
Ickwell & Old Warden Reserves	13	4	1	8	27	37	-10	13
Kempston Hammers Sports	13	3	1	9	31	38	-7	10

Saturday, 05 September 2009: FC Meppershall v AFC Kempston Town Reserves - Away Win was awarded

Jubilee Cup 1st Round

Just two of the six scheduled ties going ahead after the overnight frost claimed the ties, Harpur v Potton Wanderers; Shillington v Arlesey Social Galacticos; Kings AFC v Elstow Abbey and Kempston Royals v Shefford Town.

In those ties, both were to end in away wins. Bedford Hatters with two goals from Michael Fry and a strike from Daniel De Foe coming from behind to win 3-1 at last seasons beaten finalists Great Barford for whom Luke Haverly had given an early

lead. Whilst, Marabese Ceramics were 3-1 winners at Clifton, goals from Colin Stanley, Gary Bottazzi and Denver Donaldson only being replied to by Tom Allen.

The day's only scheduled game in Division Three at Hurst Grove between Lidlington United Sports and Queens Park Crescents failing to beat a morning pitch inspection.

With the Keysoe Road local derby between Thurleigh and Sharnbrook Reserves frozen off, the lone Division Four action saw Flitwick Town Reserves extend their winning away run to three games to leapfrog above their victims Dinamo Flitwick into fourth spot in the league table with a 5-3 win. Mark Bartlett leading the way with a hat-trick supported by a goal from James Taylor, whilst The Dinamo replies came via Daniel Hollis, Ben Canning and Nick Stanton.

Division Four League Table at 2nd January 2010

11 Teams	Games Played	Games Won	Games Drawn	Games Lost	Goals For	Goals Against	Goal Difference	Points
Sundon Park Rangers [Saturday]	11	8	1	2	61	17	+44	25
Sharnbrook Reserves	11	8	1	2	37	12	+25	25
M & DH Oakley	11	8	0	3	36	16	+20	24
Flitwick Town Reserves	11	6	0	5	33	40	-7	18
Dinamo Flitwick	12	5	2	5	28	25	+3	17
Eastcotts	10	5	1	4	26	21	+5	16
Thurleigh	11	4	2	5	29	29	+0	14
Clifton Reserves	10	4	1	5	29	28	+1	13
Stewartby Village	10	4	0	6	26	32	-6	12
Kempston Athletic	9	2	0	7	24	48	-24	6
Bedford Park Rangers	12	1	0	11	15	76	-61	3

Watson Shield Group Three action saw Caldecote A keep their hopes alive of a place in the last 16 with a 4-2 home victory over Kempston Athletic, Ryan Ambrose with a hat-trick plus Steve Bush on the scoresheet for the home side against Athletic replies from Gary Whitbread and Dave Wild.

Watson Shield Group Three Table at 2nd January 2010

3 Teams	Games Played	Games Won	Games Drawn	Games Lost	Goals For	Goals Against	Goal Difference	Points
Sharnbrook Reserves	2	2	0	0	5	1	+4	6
Caldecote 'A'	4	1	1	2	7	9	-2	4

Kempston Athletic	2	0	1	1	4	6	-2	1
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In Group Six, Renhold United having already qualified for the last 16, show no favours to Stewartby Village thus ending their group campaign with a 100% record thanks to a 4-2 home win, goals from James Brown, Ian Hamer, Dan Luke and Simon Wade doing the damage against Village replies from Ben Sparkes and George Wheelhouse.

Watson Shield Group Six Table at 2nd January 2010

3 Teams	Games Played	Games Won	Games Drawn	Games Lost	Goals For	Goals Against	Goal Difference	Points
Renhold Village	4	4	0	0	23	7	+16	12
Stewartby Village	2	0	0	2	4	9	-5	0
Thurleigh	2	0	0	2	3	14	-11	

In Group Seven, Sandy Reserves now know they will not be in the hat for the last 16 draw after being beaten 3-5 on home soil by Clifton Reserves, a result that ensures Clifton will however make it into that hat. Greg King claiming the hero status mantle with four goals alongside a strike from Toby McNaught, whilst the home replies came via Adam Jones, Danny Hoole and Kevin Fage.

Watson Shield Group Seven Table at 2nd January 2010

3 Teams	Games Played	Games Won	Games Drawn	Games Lost	Goals For	Goals Against	Goal Difference	Points
Flitwick Town Reserves	2	2	0	0	8	3	+5	6
Clifton Reserves	3	2	0	1	12	8	+4	6
Sandy Reserves	3	0	0	3	5	14	-9	0

The other scheduled Watson Shield games, Riseley Sports Reserves v Stopsley Park ; Dunton Reserves v Bedford Park Rangers.; M & DH Oakley v Eastcotts and Westoning Recreation Club Reserves v Sundon Park Rangers, all frozen off postponed.

Preview Saturday 9th January 2010.

Next weekend sees current Premier Division supported by Sportsform league leaders Blunham open up their 2010 league programme with a home game at Moggerhanger Playing Fields against Wilshamstead. Blunham going into the fixture some seven points clear at the head of the table seeking their ninth league win on the bounce, whilst the visitors travel looking for their first away win since winning at Woburn as long ago as early October.

For current second placers Ickwell & Old Warden, its a second meeting with Biggleswade United Reserves on The Green inside seven days, after being ousted by United from The Britannia Cup last weekend, the hosts looking for their sixth league

win on the bounce, whilst United travel seeking their first away league victory since winning at Wilshamstead back in late September.

Any slip up by Ickwell & Old Warden however, would give Caldecote the chance to regain second spot should they collect the full three points from their home Harvey Close encounter against bottom of the table Westoning Recreation Club, the home side going into the game now unbeaten in their last seven league outings, whilst the visitors travel in search of their first away win of the season.



Westoning Recreation Club FC

Over at Hillgrounds, AFC Kempston Town will be hosting a Campton side who travel looking to end a three game losing run that has seen them drop into the bottom half of the league table. Whilst at Lodge Road, Sharnbrook, now on a four game unbeaten home run receive a visit from second from the bottom of the table Southill Alexander, the visitors travelling having failed to win any of their last six outings to plummet down the league table.

Outside the league action at Horseshoes Close, it's a Britannia Cup First Round tie between Dunton and Woburn.

In Division One, Flitwick Town who currently lead the league table by just two points, commence their 2010 league campaign with a home Steppingley Road encounter with bottom of the table Kempston Hammers Sports. Town entering the fixture winners of their last four league outings, but will be well aware The Hammers came up with their first league win on the road this season at Stevington just before the holiday break.

For second place Leighton United, it's also home action at Stanbridge Road to commence 2010, where you would expect them to collect the full three points to make it six league wins on the bounce when a Stevington side with just one away win to their name this season come calling.

Perhaps the game of the day in this section is at Harvey Close, where third place Caldecote Reserves entertain sixth place Meltis Albion who trail them by just two points in the standings. Caldecote seeking their fifth home league win on the bounce, whilst The Albion travel winners of their last three away outings.

Sandwiched between these two sides in the league table are Kempston, who will be in home Cutler Hammer action against Henlow, the hosts perhaps starting the day the favourites for the three points on offer which could lift them up into third spot above the non-playing Marston Social should we also get a stalemate result at Harvey Close between Caldecote Reserves and Meltis Albion.

Over in Mowsbury Park, FC Meppershall, now on a three game winning run, host a Sandy side they will be keen to seek their revenge on for a 7-0 beating at The Recreation Ground earlier in the season. Whilst AFC Kempston Town Reserves travel to Rectory Road to face Campton Reserves looking to end a sequence of three straight defeats.

Also hitting the road hoping to end a losing sequence are Ickwell & Old Warden Reserves, they make the short journey to Cople Playing Fields on the back of four consecutive away defeats to face Bedford Sports Athletic.

The main focus of attention for the lower division sides comes with action in the 3rd Round of this season's Bedfordshire FA Junior Cup. Of the eight ties taking place, five are all Bedfordshire County Football League affairs. At Mill Lane, it will be a major surprise if hosts and Division Two high flyers Potton Wanderers fail to beat the visiting Shillington, but the other all Division Two clash at Groveside between Marabese Ceremics and Brache Sparta Community Reserves looks much harder to call.

Elsewhere, there is a chance for a spot of giant killing for two Division Three sides with home ties over Division Two opposition, Division Three league leaders Queens Park Crescents look to have the best chance, when in Mowsbury Park they entertain Kings AFC, but with Harpur FC having failed to win in away league action this season, Renhold Village will perhaps fancy their chances of an upset when they host them at Renhold Playing Fields.

The sole surviving Division Four side at this stage of the competition are M & DH Oakley, yet whilst they have been given a home draw, that's where their luck ends as their visitors are Division Two league leaders Bedford Hatters who you would expect to come out on top.

For Marston Shelton Rovers, it's home action against Stopsley Baptist Church, whilst at Greenfield Road, Westoning Recreation Club Reserves have home advantage against North Bucks League outfit, Heath Panthers United.

Lower league action thus being reduced to just three games. In Division Two at Arlesey Recreation Ground, hosts Arlesey Social Galacticos are due a visit from an Elstow Abbey side that is yet to win on the road this season. Whilst Shefford Town seek away win number three on the bounce when they journey to face Great Barford.

The lone Division Four action coming at Whiston Crescent, where Clifton Reserves place their season's unbeaten home ways on the line against the visitors Eastcotts.

For the remainder of the Division Three and Four sides, it's action in a series of group games in The Watson Shield. In Group One, where it's still all to play for with all three teams currently on the same number of points, it's action at Gold Street, where Riseley Sports Reserves receive a visit from Dinamo Flitwick. Whilst in Group Two, for Bedford Park Rangers who journey to Hurst Grove to face Lidlington United Sports, it's the last chance saloon, anything other than a victory will see them exit the competition.

In Group Three, the action comes in Hillgrounds, where the already qualified Sharnbrook Reserves travel to face Kempston Athletic, whose own hopes of making it into the last 16 will surely disappear with a defeat.

In Group Five like in Group One, it's still all to play for with action at Jubilee Playing Fields between hosts Wilshamstead Reserves and Sundon Park Rangers. Whilst it's part one of the two clashes between hosts Thurleigh and visitors Stewartby Village to decide who will join Renhold Village in the hat from Group Six.

Over at Bedford Road Recreation Ground, only pride is at stake when hosts Sandy Reserves, already out of the competition, take on Flitwick Town Reserves in a Group Seven clash.

A New Year Teaser For All You Quiz Buffs

Something happen at this weekends Bedfordshire County Football League fixtures that as not happen previously this season. What was it?

Answers please on email to peter.francis30@ntlworld.com

The sender of the first correct answer is guarantee his or hers five minutes of frame in next weeks issue.

Website Breaks through the Million Barrier.

Our League Website www.bedfordshirefootballleague.co.uk continues to grow in popularity with a record breaking number of visitors during the month of December being recorded at 13528, an increase of 2021 on the previous best monthly total achieved during November.

Of those visitors, some 323 even made a visit on Christmas Day. The hit count for December for the fifth consecutive month exceeded 100,000 to lift the hits recorded during 2009 above the one million mark at 1,090,270.