

# Bedfordshire County Football League



Season 2009-10

News Bulletin Number 5



## Bedfordshire County Football League 2009-10 Season Cup Draw

- **BRITANNIA CUP [Round 1]** [2nd January 2010]
  - CALDECOTE v OAKLEY SPORTS
  - MELTIS CORINTHIANS v WESTONING RECREATION CLUB
  - WILSHAMSTEAD v AFC KEMPSTON TOWN
  - CAMPTON v RENHOLD UNITED
  - SHARNBROOK v BLUNHAM
  - RISELEY SPORTS v SOUTHILL ALEXANDER
  - ICKWELL & OLD WARDEN v BIGGLESWADE UNITED RESERVES
  - DUNTON v WOBURN
- **CENTENARY CUP [Round 1]** [2nd January 2010]
  - KEMPSTON HAMMERS SPORTS v LEIGHTON UNITED
  - CALDECOTE RESERVES v FC MEPPERSHALL
  - METIS ALBION v FLITWICK TOWN
  - BEDFORD SPORTS ATHLETIC v SANDY
  - STEVINGTON v AFC KEMPSTON TOWN RESERVES
  - BLUNHAM RESERVES v KEMPSTON
  - ICKWELL & OLD WARDEN v CAMPTON RESERVES [provisionally 9th January]
  - HENLOW v MARSTON SOCIAL
- **JUBILEE CUP [Round 1]** [2nd January 2010]
  - LUTON OLD BOYS v BRACHE SPARTA COMMUNITY RESERVES
  - HARPUR v POTTON WANDERERS
  - SHILLINGTON v ARLESEY SOCIAL GALACTICOS
  - KINGS AFC v ELSTOW ABBEY 06
  - GREAT BARFORD v BEDFORD HATTERS
  - KEMPSTON ROYALS v SHEFFORD TOWN
  - CLIFTON v MARABESE CERAMICS
  - MARSTON SHELTON ROVERS v MELTIS CORINTHIANS RESERVES

- **WATSON SHIELD [Preliminary Stage]** [starting 12th December 2009]
  - **Group 1**
    - STOPSLEY PARK
    - DINAMO FLITWICK
    - RISELEY SPORTS RESERVES
  - **Group 2**
    - DUNTON RESERVES
    - BEDFORD PARK RANGERS
    - LIDLINGTON UNITED SPORTS
  - **Group 3**
    - KEMPSTON ATHLETIC
    - SHARNBROOK RESERVES
    - CALDECOTE 'A'
  - **Group 4**
    - QUEENS PARK CRESCENTS
    - M & DH OAKLEY
    - EASTCOTTS
  - **Group 5**
    - WILSHAMSTEAD RESERVES
    - WESTONING RESERVES
    - SUNDON PARK RANGERS
  - **Group 6**
    - STEWARTBY VILLAGE
    - RENHOLD VILLAGE
    - THURLEIGH
  - **Group 7**
    - CLIFTON RESERVES
    - SANDY RESERVES
    - FLITWICK TOWN RESERVES

Each team plays the others in their group HOME and AWAY [4 matches] on a League basis. Rules as for Divisions Three and Four for each group. The top two in each group moves forward to Round 1 of the Watson Shield. The seven bottom teams will be combined into a single division, their playing records being their final record in their initial group of three. The top two teams in this combined division will go forward to join the other 14 in Round 1 of the Cup.

Round 1 will be drawn at an appropriate Management Committee meeting, and will be a straight knock out competition from Round 1 onwards.

### **A Travellers Tale by Brian Buck.**

Who is Brian Buck you ask? Well in plain and simple terms he is a ground-hopper who currently is working towards his target of trying to reach his 10000<sup>th</sup> game on his 3000<sup>th</sup> different ground by his 60<sup>th</sup> birthday in two years time, currently having undertaken approximately 9450 games on 2850 grounds including having not missed a first team game at his beloved White Hart Lane for the past 40 years.

His other claim to fame being he is the next door neighbour of Caldecote's, Matt Basta, living in Bedfordshire County Football League territory he often takes in our

midweek games early and late season which are then written up for his Travellers Tales articles he produces for the match day programmes of Potton United, Stotfold and Royston Town among others.

Brian has kindly agreed to allow his tales of the games involving our clubs to appear in our News Bulletins during the season and in this issue we bring you news of his early season visits to Campton, Blunham and Sandy which I'm sure you will find very entertaining.

**26. (9,449) Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> July 2009. Campton 2 AFC Dunstable 0 (Friendly Match) att 20 approx.** All Campton's friendly matches were supposed to kick off at 7pm, but one official indicated that it might start at 6.45pm. Both times were wrong and ref Cliff Campbell set things moving at 6.30pm! Luckily Bedfordshire County League Press & Media Secretary, Peter Francis and I were both there on time, more by luck than anything else. Campton are now managed by Jim Burke and tonight he had two teams itching for a game. He may have some selection problems soon as this is one club where the players don't leave when the manager does and Jim wants to bring some of his own players in. Meanwhile the visitors had one player on the pitch who Jim won't be interested in. He was a rolly polly player and last just 20 minutes before being subbed, possibly for ever! Despite kicking off early we only got 41 minutes in the first half. Although it was a bit wet and windy. Dunstable had been the brighter of the two sides but Campton finished the half strongly. It was they who took a 52<sup>nd</sup> minute lead when a shot went in off the post. Then three minutes later Jim replaced the whole side, except the keeper! Being now a much fresher side they easily held their own against a spirited visiting side. The light was holding out quite well, even allowing for the weather conditions and the referee asked Jim if he wanted to play an extra five minutes. This invitation didn't seem to be offered to the opposition. Anyway in the last of these added minutes Campton grabbed their second goal after a keeper cock up to bring to a close a reasonably entertaining match.

**33rd game of the season. (Match 9,455) Wednesday 5th August 2009. Blunham 5 Oakley Sports 1 (Friendly Match) (Played at Moggerhanger United (Defunct)) att 10 approx.** I took the Bedfordshire County League Press & Media Secretary with me to this match and was a bit surprised to note that he didn't bring an umbrella along with him as in driving to pick him up I had noticed a very large black rain cloud in the distance, looking for somewhere handy to drop its load. "The trees will keep me dry he proclaimed!" Oh yeah! As soon as the game started then so did the rain and for twenty minutes it was torrential, to the point I thought that ref David Seaman, (no not that one!) might bring the players off or even abandon the match. But even though he was operating on a dodgy pair of legs, (not in the medical sense that is, as this would be a bit tricky to carry out while a match was in progress) he carried on, although one wag in the crowd suggested that he had a runner, like they do in cricket! Had we been struck by lightning though we were standing in the right place as the graveyard was just behind us! When the rain did stop we witnessed a bright rainbow, quickly followed by even brighter sunshine. Before the start the Oakley manager gave an in depth tactical team talk, watched with interest by Deep Banghard, still playing football, in between his part time porno film making commitments! None of this worked as they found themselves 3-0 down by the break against a Blunham side who gradually got better during the game as they became more focussed on what they were doing. This domination continued after the break, but Oakley who had contributed

much during the match, finished strongly. But by then the damage had been done and Ben Flatters was able to complete his hat-trick.

**34. (9,456) Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> August 2009. Sandy Reserves 2 Embankment 4 (Friendly Match) att 15 approx.** If the weather during the previous evening was bad, then this was even worse and this match was played in torrential rain throughout. It was so bad that even Peter Francis remembered his umbrella! As I travelled to the ground I even had my doubts as to if this match would be on. I parked up and decided that I needed to put my wellies on. But I got soaked even making the short distance from getting out of the car and going to the boot, to get them out. I put them on sitting in the car, but I was still getting wet and it was only when I made the short walk to the clubhouse that I realised that I had put them on the wrong feet! Despite all of this we ultimately saw a decent game. Embankment normally ply their trade in the Beds Sunday League Division 4 and eventually tonight they were overflowing with goals. However before then Sandy got off to a good start and they took the lead on 6 minutes with a goal scored by Leon Bryan, a player who certainly wasn't out of his depth and looked like he should have been playing at a much higher level. This lead was doubled on 24 minutes. However in the second half and with Embankment now kicking 'upstream' it was they who gradually worked their way back into the match. They pulled a goal back on 57 minutes, just before the street lights came on. Then on 64 minutes they equalised, Conditions were now deteriorating quickly and along with the heavy rain it was now getting dark as well. The pivotal point in the game came on 80 minutes when a brilliant save by the Embankment keeper denied Sandy what would have almost certainly be a win for them. But on 84 and 90 minutes the visitors were to score again to give them the win, which was just a bit harsh on Sandy

#### **Preview of next weekends big Kick Off.**

The Bedfordshire County Football League will kick off its 2009-10 season next Saturday with a series of fixtures in its top three Divisions. Premier Division supported by Sportsform action being restricted to just six fixtures. For reigning champions Caldecote its a trip on the road to Lodge Road to face Sharnbrook where the home side will be looking to end a run of three consecutive opening days defeats against Neil Mapletroft's troops whose opening day record of six wins and one draw from the past seven seasons suggests they will be taking the full three points back to Harvey Close.

Over at Rectory Road, last seasons runners-up Campton now under the management of Jim Burke, face his old club Oakley Sports in what is a repeat of the start to the 2008-09 season when the clubs drew 3-3. With the home side having won five of their previous six starts to the season against the Sportsman's record of two wins over the same period of time, it will be the home side who will start favourites to collect the points rather than given the visitors new management team of Dennis Tracey and Jamie Endersby an opening day win.

Another club under new management are Blunham, now under the control of Ivan Finch and for them its a home start at Moggerhanger Playing Fields when newly promoted Westoning Recreation Club come calling. Both clubs having fairly impressive opening day statistics, Blunham will be seeking their third opening day

win on the bounce whilst the visitors have won their opening fixture five times during the past seven seasons.

Over at Hillgrounds, AFC Kempston Town, who last lost on the opening day of the season some six seasons ago, entertain Riseley Sports. The Sportsman have been asked to journey three times away from their Gold Street base in the past seven seasons to commence their campaign and on each occasion they have returned empty handed.

The final two games in this Division coming at The Carlsberg Stadium where league newcomers Southill Alexander will host newly promotion Woburn the firm favourites to get their Bedfordshire County Football League membership off to a winning start. Plus at Hoerseshoes Close where Dunton will open their season with a visit from Biggleswade United Reserves.

Division One action brings about six fixtures, the pick of which could come at Stanbridge Road where newly promoted Leighton United are hosting Ickwell & Old Warden Reserves whilst there is derby action at both Bedford Road where Sandy now under the new management of Daniel Bailey, face Campton Reserves under the new control of Jamie Webster and at Harvey Close, the venue for hosts Caldecote Reserves meeting with relegated Henlow who are now under the leadership of Greg Hall.

Two of the other games in this section take place in Hillgrounds. Bedford Sports Athletic hosting AFC Kempston Town Reserves plus FC Meppershall entertain fellow promoted side Blunham Reserves. With the days final game in this section taking Flitwick Town on the road to face Stevington.

Division Two, unlike the top two division has a full quota of eight games. At Groveside its derby action where Marabese Ceramics host a retuning to adult football for the first time in 15 seasons Shefford Town, while many eyes will be looking out for the Moor Lane clash between two of the likely title front runners, Great Barford under the new management of Richard Wheatley, who host league newcomers Bedford Hatters.

A second derby clash in this section takes place at Arlesey Recreation Ground where newly promoted Arlesey Social Galacticos will be taking on Clifton. Over at Mill Lane another of the divisions likely front runners, Potton Wanderers, will kick off their season against relegated Elstow Abbey.

For two of the league newcomers its a trip on the road to start the season. Brache Sparta Community Centre Reserves travelling to King George VI Playing Fields to face hosts Kings AFC, whilst Luton Old Boys hit the road for a meeting with Shillington at Greenfields.

The other action in this division coming in Hillgrounds where Kempston Royals entertain another of the league newcomers Harpur FC, and at Miller Road where Meltis Corinthians Reserves are due to entertain Marston Shelton Rovers.

Action will then move onto Wednesday evening where again the top three divisions will be in action. For both Renhold United and Ickwell & Old Warden its a start to their seasons under floodlights. United travelling to Second Meadow to face Biggleswade United Reserves whilst the men from The Green, now under the control of Alan Turner Junior and Vinny Govoni, make their way to the Carlsberg Stadium to face Southill Alexander. Both games kicking off at 7.45pm.

In the evenings other top flight games kicking off at 6.30pm Campton are back in home action at Rectory Road against AFC Kempston Town, while over at Horseshoes Close, Dunton will kick off their season with a visit from Woburn.

Also starting their 2009-10 campaign will be Wilshamstead who host Blunham at Jubilee Playing Fields whilst its derby action at Gold Street with a meeting between hosts Riseley Sports and near neighbour's Sharnbrook but for Oakley Sports its another trip on the road this time to Greenfield Road to face Westoning Recreation Club.

Division One action sees both Sandy and Stevington again in home action. Sandy hosting FC Meppershall at Bedford Road whilst Stevington receive a visit from Leighton United.

For Marston Social its a start to their season when they hit the road to Moggerhanger Playing Fields and a meeting with Blunham Reserves, whilst both Meltis Albion and Kempston Hammers Sports start their seasons campaign's with home games. Albion in Miller Road action against Caldecote Reserves while The Hammers entertain Flitwick Town at Cutler Hammer.

Over at Groveside. Henlow will be hosting a starting the season Kempston, whilst just down the road on The Green, Ickwell & Old Warden Reserves entertain Bedford Sports Athletic. The evenings other game in this section coming at Hillgrounds where AFC Kempston Town Reserves will be in home action against Campton Reserves.

The pick of the Division Two action could well come at Foxdell Road with the local derby clash between hosts Brache Sparta Community Centre Reserves and Luton Old Boys which will kick off at 7pm although running that close could be the Miller Road meeting between Bedford Hatters and Kings AFC.

Other action comes at Whiston Crescent where Clifton will be hosting Great Barford. At The Warren, the venue for Elstow Abbey's home clash with Arlesey Social Galacticos and at The Bedford Sports & Hockey Centre, where Harpur FC will kick off their home season hosting Potton Wanderers.

The night's final three games seeing Marston Shelton Rovers get their season underway in home action against also starting the season Kempston Royals whilst at Digswell Playing Fields, Shefford Town's host Meltis Corinthians Reserves, and at Greenfield's, Shillington will be in home derby action against Marabese Ceramics.