

Bedfordshire County

Football League

Season 2009-10

News Bulletin Number 6



Pre-season Round Up Part Two

On Tuesday August 18th Bedford Hatters once again came up with the performance of the night with a 3-1 away win at Premier Division supported by Sportsform, Renhold United. Goals from Simon Pixley, Scott Alleyne and Rob Hewitt doing the damage against a home reply from Mo Banda.

Also winning on their travels was Kempston Athletic, 3-2 winners at Elstow Abbey. First half goals from John Beam and Dave McCarthy saw The Abbey lead 2-0 at the break before a second half hatrick from Athletic's Gary Whitbread won the day.

Over at Harvey Close, Caldecote Reserves and Great Barford played out a 2-2 draw. Gary Russon netting early on for the visitors before matters were level by half-time thanks to a goal from Leeroy Odd. Jack Aris then shot Caldecote into a second half lead only to have it cancelled out by a late goal from Ashley Fage.

Elsewhere, a first half goal from Adam Millard was enough to take Arlesey Social Galacticos to a 1-0 home win over Clifton.

On the following evening, Wednesday August 19th, two goals from Ian Hammett took Sandy to a 2-0 win at Marabese Ceramics in a Biggleswade Knock Out Cup Preliminary Round tie tonight to earn them the right to face Premier Division supported by Sportsform, Dunton at Horseshoes Close on Tuesday August 25th in Round One of the competition.

Elsewhere in the pre-season friendlies, Premier Division supported by Sportsform, Caldecote ran riot at Harvey Close against Division One outfit Henlow, winning 12-2. Only 2-1 ahead at the break thanks to goals from Tom Wallace and Garth Boness to a Henlow reply from Pete Saunders, the second period was to see them add 10 goals to their tally, Boness adding another three, both Russell Kemp and Leeroy Odd netting twice alongside single strikes from Dave Daniels, Steve Starling and Jack Warwick, whilst the lone Henlow reply came via a own goal.

For Biggleswade United Reserves it was a 2-1 home win over Mates FC (Southend) thanks to goals from Jordan Deodrick and Damon Hazelwood whilst over at Rectory Road, Campton Reserves run out 4-2 home winners over Clifton. Ricky Angel,

Richard Russell, Gary Ansell and Neil Ellis on the scoresheet for the home side against replies from William Pitts and Tony Norman.

At Greenfield's, goals from Sam Larsen and Shahnan Khan helped Shillington to a 2-2 home draw with AFC Kempston Town.

On Thursday evening August 20th, goals from Gary Fil, Andrew Vallom and Zak Rowe saw Premier Division supported by Sportsform Ickwell & Old Warden net a 3-0 home victory over Bedford Sunday League side Supreme, whilst at Bedford Road, Sandy Reserves were beaten 1-0 by Sharnbrook Reserves.

Elsewhere, Eastcotts FC of Division Four came up with the result of the evening winning 4-2 at Division One, Marston Social. Ciaran Alexander shot them into a 13th minute lead before Andy Harding levelled matters for the home side seven minutes later. The second period like the first was 13minutes old when Liam Parker restored the visitors lead, this time it was to last 17minutes until Social's Antony Hubbard squared matters at 2-2 but the night was to belong to Eastcotts with Kieran Day coming up with a brace of goals in the closing 10minutes to take them to victory.

On Saturday August 22nd, Sandy FC were to engrave their name on the Jesse Piggott Memorial Trophy for the first time since 2006 after they claimed a 7-4 victory over Blunham Reserves. Andrew Wren converted a 20th minute penalty to set them on their way which Wren, with a header five minutes later, quickly made 2-0. Before Blunham could recover Chris Cooper, with a delicate chip over the head of Blunham goalkeeper Barry Ulyatt, had taken the scoreline to 3-0 in the 27th minute. But it was game back on when Carl Warner for Blunham reduced the arrears on the half-hour mark.

However it was to be Sandy's day as both Cooper and Craig Baker added to their scoreline in the opening five minutes of the new half to take them 5-1 clear before Brad Dennis made it 6-1 on 67minutes. Blunham with a penalty converted by goalkeeper Ulyatt on 73minutes and a strike from Mark Davidson two minutes later dragged the scoreline back to 6-3 until Wren completed his hat-trick 13minutes from time with his second penalty of the day to take the scoreline up to 7-3. Ulyatt then netted his second penalty of the afternoon two minutes from time to complete the afternoon's scoring.

Earlier in the afternoon Dunton Reserves had claimed the trophies third spot with a 4-2 win over Ickwell & Old Warden Reserves. Early goals from Tom Burton and Andrew Spiers taking them into a 2-0 lead which had vanished by half-time following goals from Neil Faulkner and Matthew Bruney until strikes from Joe Lewis and Andrew Spiers in the last eight minutes of the game won the day for Dunton.

In the afternoon's pre-season friendlies just three Premier Division supported by Sportsform clubs were in action. Biggleswade United Reserves with a goal from Byrn Williams winning 1-0 at Potton Wanderers, Westoning Recreation Club thanks to a brace of goals from Terry Hyde plus strikes from Joe Rogers and Ian Buckingham netting a 4-1 home win over Lidlington United Sports, whilst Woburn were held to a 4-4 home draw against Cranfield United Reserves. Aaron Ripley twice plus Chris Allan and Lewis Murray netting their goals.

For Division One, Flitwick Town it was a stroll in the sunshine with a 7-1 victory over Bedford Sunday League Flitwick Eagles. Grant Archer netting twice alongside Grant Tibbett, Jim Lewis, Martin Barlett, Martin Byrne and an own goal. Also winning by the same scoreline were Arlesey Social Galacticos 7-1 home winners over Kings AFC. Adam Millard netting a hattrick, Scott Leger bagging two, whilst Lee Shambrook and James Gentry also got on the scoresheet against a Kings reply from Oliver Plested.

Over at Harvey Close, Colin Standley was the Marabese Ceramics goalscorer in their 1-1 draw with Caldecote A. Scott Lancaster had given the home side an early lead whilst goals from Hagi Conteh, Patrick Boateng and Alex Igori helped Brache Sparta Community Reserves to a 3-3 draw at Crawley Green Reserves.

Shillington however were beaten 7-2 at Baldock Town and Letchworth, Sam Larsen and Shannan Khan netting their goals.

The days final game was to bring about 11goals and a 9-2 win for Eastcotts FC at Stewartby Village. Paul Welling and James Churchman on the mark for The Village, whilst Liam Parker with a hattrick, Ciaran Alexander with a brace plus Shane Wilson, Matty Walsh, Kieran Day and Jason Smith found the back of the net for Eastcotts.



Maureen Gurney (Jesse Piggott daughter) hands over the JP Trophy to Sandy's Richard Seldon following their win over Blunham Reserves.

Sunday August 23rd saw Elstow Abbey in home action at The Warren against Sunday League side Favourite (Luton) where goals from Ryan Bean, John Bean, Dave McCarthy and Chris Harvey took them to a 4-0 victory.

Action on Tuesday August 25th saw last season beaten Biggleswade Knock-Out Cup finalists, Premier Division supported by Sportsform Dunton safely make it into the semi-final of this seasons competition with a narrow 1-0 home victory over Sandy, Nicky Threadgold netting the vital goal 20 minutes from time. Sandy's cause not being helped by the first half sending off of Sam James. Dunton now travel to face either Ampthill Town Reserves or Langford Reserves in that last four tie.

On the pre-season friendly front, for Division One Marston Social, it was a 2-1 away win at Premier Division supported by Sportsform Woburn. Goals from Tim Warden and Darren Rowlett doing the damage against a home reply from Matt Holland.

Elsewhere, Elstow Abbey were to claim their second win inside 72 hours with a 5-2 away win over Bedford Sunday League side Wootton Park Rangers. Goals from Dave McCarthy, Sean Epaminondas and Shaun Allison taking them into a 3-0 half-time lead before a John Watts forty yarder plus a Chris Hardy penalty sealed their victory.

Meanwhile, Premier Division supported by Sportsform Wilshamstead were beat 4-0 by Rushden & Higham.

Action on Wednesday August 26th perhaps saw the performance of the evening once again being claimed by Bedford Hatters who held United Counties Football League Division One club Wootton Blue Cross to a 0-0 draw on their own Weston Park Ground.

For Premier Division supported by Sportsform Southill Alexander, it was a 0-4 home defeat at the hands of South Midlands League outfit Royston Town Reserves. Goals by Dan Scott and Stuart Jackson in the opening ten minutes saw "The Bishops " quickly two goals down but the Town didn't add to their tally until Terry Lock scored direct from a free kick 10 minutes into the second period then completed the scoring with a strike from Louis Forbes 13 minutes from time.

Over at Miller Road, Division One Meltis Albion, now under the new management of Salvatore Ventriqlia following the walk-out of Mark Murphy, were held to a 0-0 draw by Division Two Great Barford.

Elsewhere it was a good night for Division Two Shillington who with goals from Shahnan Khan and Matt Evans run out 2-1 home winners over Division One Flitwick Town for whom Rob Simpkins found the back of the net.

The evenings final Pre-season friendly game taking Sandy Reserves to a 6-1 home victory over Bedford Park Rangers, Bradley Dennis netting four times alongside single strikes from Leon Byan and Antony Roberts.

Meanwhile, Shefford Town made their exit from this season East Beds Charity Cup at the Preliminary Round stage when beaten 4-0 at Gamlingay, two goals in either half

doing the damage. Gamlingay the current cup holders now face a home tie with Clifton in Round One.

Action on Thursday August 27th saw Marston Social net their second win of the week 3-0 over derby rivals Marston Shelton Rovers. James Armstrong hitting a second half brace alongside a strike from Daniel Bullen just nine minutes from time.

A Travellers Tale by Brian Buck

Following on from Brian's reports in News Bulletin Number 5, here is his report on his visit to Forde Park to watch Biggleswade United Reserves take on Langford Reserves in a pre-season friendly

41st game of the season. (Match 9,464) Thursday 13th August 2009. Langford Reserves 0 Biggleswade United Reserves 2 (Friendly Match) att 55 approx. On my arrival I saw that there were absolutely loads of cars parked in the car park, but when I entered the ground it seemed to be absolutely deserted. Perhaps one of the reasons was that both teams had large squads of players on show. Then it might have been that they get paid so much that they can all afford to run two cars! Anyway after constant nagging (by me) I was told at the gate that the dugout problem had been resolved. Rather than move them over to the other side of the pitch, like they said they were going to do, they have lowered them instead. This has only partially resolved the problem. If you sit in the stand you used to not be able to see any of the bottom corner of the pitch. You still can't, but at least now you can see the tops of the players heads! For a reserve match this was a decent well supported game. United had it sewn up by half time On 13 minutes Sean Murray, with 12 on his shirt and 7 on his shorts, opened the scoring. I remember my first ever visit to Watford to watch them beat Rotherham United 4-0 in a friendly match in July 1971, referee Alan Turvey made a Watford sub change his shorts in similar circumstances! Anyway on 43 minutes a keeper error allowed Kane to score the final goal of the evening. In the second half Langford did their best to redress the balance, having nine scoring opportunities spread evenly through the half against United's five, which were confined to the start and end of the period. Ultimately it was not to be for Langford tonight.