

# Bedfordshire County Football League



Season 2009-10

News Bulletin Number 43



## Non League Daily visit Southill Alexander v Blunham game.

Bedfordshire County League Premier Division club Southill Alexander well and truly tore up the form book at the weekend.

Manager Steve Foster confirmed to nonleaguedaily within moments of his side`s 6-1 home success over table-toppers Blunham that this was "the big performance " from his players at the Carlsberg Stadium.

Now Foster wants his players to take this kind of form into their final game of the season on the road at AFC Kempston on Bank Holiday Monday and very much a springboard to push on next time around after securing a good mid-table position in the club`s first season.

Conditions were excellent for a contest that had a huge bearing on the eventual destination of the Step 7 league's championship. Victory for Blunham, who included former Yeovil and Southend striker Barrington Belgrave in its line-up alongside player-manager Ivan Finch, the ex-St Neots Town, Wootton Blue Cross and Arlesey Town player.

A win at the weekend would have meant celebration time for Blunham, but it now goes down to the wire and the final Saturday in a County League `double bill` that sees second-placed Ickwell & Old Warden go into action with a 11am kick-off at Sharnbrook a point behind the present leaders, who also have superior goal differential as a prelude to the AFC Kempston v Blunham game at 2.30pm.

Blunham started well against Southill, going ahead by virtue of a opener from striker Andrew Smith on 10 minutes, but from there on in Foster`s men dominated to go in at the break deservedly 4-1 up.

And a performance that Foster confirmed as “without a shadow of a doubt our best of the season by a country mile” was topped off with further strikes by Brad O'Donavon and Matt Pye putting Blunham out of sight.

Acting chairman Gordon Parham and Foster admitted that this first season had been difficult, but as it moved towards its conclusion, they were very much focussed towards its future.

Transparency in all its dealings had served them well and the club owners from all corners of the globe had a product to be proud of.

Parham also praised the Bedfordshire County League: "I cannot speak highly enough of the league in every aspect. The level of football is so good for Step 7.

"There has been a real proactive support in place all campaign long by people who have a real passion for the game in this, our first season. We have been shown nothing but kindness and are proud to be members of this wonderfully caring set-up."

(Dave Griffiths)

### **Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2010 The Final Countdown**

In Premier Division supported by Sportsform action, Southill Alexander ensured themselves of a top six finish by running out 5-3 away winners at AFC Kempston Town. Two goals from Jason Lynch plus a strike from Josh Felix shooting them 3-0 until Town's Alec Russell reduced the arrears just before the half-time break. Early in the second period, Matty Smith struck for The Town to reduce the deficit to a single and give them hope, that hope however soon disappeared following further goals from Felix and Lynch to race the visitors 5-2 ahead before Town's Smith netted his second goal of the afternoon to bring up the final 3-5 scoreline.

Over at Lodge Road, Sharnbrook were chalking up their third win on the bounce, with a 3-1 victory over Woburn. Shane Forsythe shooting The Safari Boys ahead on 26 minutes which was to be cancelled out by a strike from Ian Strange just two minutes before half-time. Strange with further goals in the 63th and 80th minutes then completed his hat-trick to win the day in the second period.

In Division One with promotion already guarantee, Leighton United recorded their seven win on the bounce with a 5-0 victory at Kempston, goals from Alex Fry and Kevin Hilton shooting them 2-0 ahead by the break, before in the second period a brace of goals from Jake Forsythe and a strike from Darryl Smith brought up the nap hand.

Having won their last 10 home games, Marston Social went into their fixture with a Meltis Albion side that had lost it's last four away games, knowing a win would see them finish the season in third spot. Alas they were beaten 1-2, following which manager Paul Self quit the club. Social's Stuart Robinson giving them a 20th minute lead before Daniel Wells squared matters up a minute from the break. Albion's James Petty then hitting the winner in the 86th minute.

The day's final action coming in Division Four where Thurleigh were beaten 0-2 at home by Flitwick Town Reserves. Strikes from Grant Archer and Chris Brydon doing the damage.

## **Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2010**

Westoning Recreation Club Reserves failed in their quest to save themselves from relegation to Division Four when beaten 3-0 at Renhold Village. Marcus Joseph giving the home side the lead nine minutes into the contest, before a Pete Neal header doubled the scoreline just 10 minutes from the break. Carl Townsend then added the third from the penalty spot just seven minutes from time.

## **Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2010**

### **Bedfordshire County Football League Jubilee Cup Final.**

#### **Brache Sparta Community Centre Reserves 1 Bedford Hatters 4.**

Before a Second Meadow Biggleswade United crowd of 116, Bedford Hatters kept their hopes of a season's league and cup double win alive with a comfortable 4-1 victory over Brache Sparta Community Reserves.

The Hatters taking the lead 13 minutes into the contest, when from a free kick taken within his own half Tom Redmond was to find Dean Le Bret on the edge of the Brache penalty box who cooley laid the ball into the path of Daniel De Feo who made no mistake from 10 yards out.

De Feo himself then doubled the scoreline nine minutes later when he drifted in on the backpost to head home a pinpointed cross from Richard Cook.

The game was now all Hatters and perhaps either side of the half-hour mark they should have put the tie beyond their Luton opponents, Scott Alleyne having been set free by De Feo seeing his effort kept out by the legs of goalkeeper Ryan Darby, then from just 10 yards out Simon Pixley fired well off target.

Next up trying his luck was Aaron Izzard, skying one over the crossbar from less than 10 yards out, until with just three minutes of the opening half remaining the tie was back in the melting pot after a Redmond foul on Rondell Belfon had referee Matt Borg pointing to the penalty spot from which Martin Collins made no mistake to take the teams in at half-time separated by just a single goal.

Hatters however, were not to be denied when after Scott Alleyne had send a early warning shot over the bar they settled the match with two goals inside a 10 minute period. On 67 minutes, Cook from the edge of the penalty box fired an unstoppable free kick passed goalkeeper Darby, who then having done well to keep out a effort from Ashley Deverall was to see Hatters Chris Fry pick up the scraps and tap in from close range to make it 4-1 and game over.

**Friday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2010.**

**Bedfordshire County Football League Centenary Cup Final**

**Blunham Reserves 0, Leighton United 1,**

Leighton United came into this Centenary Cup Final, winners of their last seven league games, a feat that had taken them to promotion and Premier Division supported by Sportsform football for season 2010-11 and firm favourites to see off a Blunham Reserves outfit that had lost its closing six league games to drop into the bottom four of the Division One standings. Yet at the end of a highly entertaining 90 minutes before a Second Meadow, Biggleswade United crowd of 110 just one goal separated the sides.

That goal was to arrive just 35 minutes into the contest when Asim Munir played the perfect ball into the path of Kevin Hinton, who had the simplest of tasks to slip the ball into the back of the net past the advancing Blunham goalkeeper Roy Bloxham.

United then pushing home their advantage in the second period, in which they were the totally dominant side. First Munir shot just wide of the posts on the hour mark, then just 60 seconds later the same player was far from happy to see a waving offside flag after he had slammed the ball into the net following a horrendous error by Bloxham.

In fact, we were 64 minutes into the game before Blunham posed their first serious threat on the United goal, Mark Davidson seeing his low driven corner cleared off the line by Colin Moore. This however was to have its desired wake up call on United, who now knew a second goal was required to see off Blunham's stubborn resistance.

Layne Eadie, who had tormented the Blunham backline all evening down the left flank, from the edge of the penalty area so nearly notching that goal by bringing out the save of the game from Bloxham who was at full stretch to claw Eadie effort around his uprights.

It was now almost one-way traffic, Hilton stringing Bloxham hands from long range, before the overworked Blunham custodian punched a Munir effort over his crossbar as United went in for the killer second goal.

Blunham were again thankful to Bloxham five minutes from time for his finger-tip save from Alex Fry and even when Bloxham was beaten in time added on, there was Dave Coan on the goalline to keep out Paul Darton's shot.

**Action Round-Up Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2010**

**Saturday 8th May 2010. Bedfordshire County Football League Britannia Cup Final**

Caldecote 4 Woburn 1

Caldecote were to have their name engraved on the cup for the seventh time, when before a Second Meadow, Biggleswade United FC crowd of 135 they ran out 4-1 winners over Woburn.

It was The Safari Boys who had the first chance of the contest, when in the opening minute Lewis Murray spurned his chance right in front of goal. If only Martin Holland their leading goalscorer forced to miss the game with a broken wrist had been playing, then surely they would have been in front.

Caldecote's first chance of the game taking some 14 minutes to arrive, Paul Lawrence seeing his effort kept out well by Woburn goalkeeper Dave Stocker. Yet within two minutes the reigning cup holders were to grab the lead, Mark Phillips laying the ball into the path of Danny Lane on the edge of the penalty box who rifled it past Stocker into the top corner of the net.

Their lead then so nearly being doubled when Lawrence again became the play-maker for Lane who saw his effort cleared off the goalline. That 2-0 advantage was however to be just five minutes away, Lawrence taking full advantage of a terrible mix-up in The Safari Boys defence to round goalkeeper Stocker and shoot into an empty net.

With just five minutes of the opening half left to play, Woburn were suddenly given a route back in the game, Matt Basta upending Nick Skolsky in the penalty area and referee Keith Pearce pointing to the penalty spot. Skolsky himself taking the spot kick only for Caldecote goalkeeper Luke Kiteley to beat away, yet many of The Safari Boys followers were claiming long after the final whistle that Kiteley had moved well off his line and the kick should have been retaken.

Woburn then suffered a second killer blow when just 60 seconds later, Lawrence fired Caldecote 3-0 ahead and it looked game over before half-time.

The second period being slow to unfold, Dave Daniels for Caldecote firing the first meaningful shot of the period against the crossbar on the hour mark. After which Woburn manager Andy Skolsky made the brave decision to swap goalkeeper Stocker and Josh Holt over, the tactic paying immediate dividends when Stocker from 15 yards out reduced the arrears to 3-1 in the 69th minute.

Alas for The Safari Boys, this was as close as they got. Caldecote going on to boss the closing 20 minutes, in which efforts from Lawrence twice and Daniels once were to come back off the crossbar until with just five minutes left to play, the tie was put beyond recall when Russell Kemp netted a fourth Caldecote goal.

### **Premier Division supported by Sportsform**

Blunham are the new 2009-10 Season Premier Division supported by Sportsform champions for the first time since season 1997-98 after a dramatic final day. It all started at Lodge Road with a 11.00am kick off between hosts Sharnbrook and Ickwell & Old Warden. The visitors knowing a victory would take them two points clear of Blunham at the head of the league table and require Blunham to win at AFC

Kempston Town later in the day to deny them of their first championship win since season 1991-92

Ickwell & Old Warden before an almost entirely ground-hopper crowd from who had travelled from Birkenhead, Grimsby, Colchester and Ashford amongst other local places, taking the lead after 28 minutes after home goalkeeper Curtis Spriggs failed to hold an effort from Andrew Vallom. Anup Kalyan being right on hand to fire in the rebound from close range.

Just two minutes later, Lawrence Bentham for the home side fired over the crossbar from just six yards out, for what should have been the equalizing goal. A miss they were to pay for three times over as Ickwell raced into a 4-0 lead by half-time.

On 34 minutes, Andy Dean pinged in a cross that saw Lee Threadgold rise high to head his side 2-0 up. Threadgold then seeing his effort from distance come back off the home crossbar into the path of Vallom who was then denied his moment of glory by a fine save from Spriggs.

Yet just 60 seconds later it was 3-0, Threadgold volleying in from just inside the penalty box, the game being up for the home side when in the final action of the opening period, we saw an awful mix up between goalkeeper Spriggs and his own defender Alex Strange which allowed Kalyan to tap in from close range to take the scoreline up to 4-0. A fact borne out by a second period of very few chances to either side to add to the scoreline.

It was now all down to Hillgrounds, for the AFC Kempston Town v Blunham clash to decide the championship. Blunham club captain Matt Hulatt leading by example when from just five yards inside the Town half of play he lifted the ball over the head of home goalkeeper Ayres into the back of the net to give his side a 1-0 lead after 10 minutes.

The Ickwell & Old Warden following amongst the 80 plus crowd then jumping for joy, when Town's James Allen found the back of the net just 15 minutes later quickly subdued when his effort was ruled out for offside.

Blunham were now getting very nervy as they inched towards the championship, Barrington Belgrave air shooting a chance right in front of goal 10 minutes into the second period.

However, the championship winning goal was to arrive on 65 minutes when referee Martin Darlow played a marvellous advantage after Barrington had been fouled to allow Andy Smith to pick up the pieces and slam home goal number two.

With the Ickwell support now having departed Blunham player-manager Ivan Finch found Smith free on the right flank and from his pinpointed cross Matty McMahon arrived late in the box to head home goal number three just seven minutes from time.

### Premier Division Supported by Sportsform Final Table Season 2009-10

14 Teams	Games Played	Games Won	Games Drawn	Games Lost	Goals For	Goals Against	Goal Difference	Points
Blunham	26	19	3	4	88	45	+43	60
Ickwell & Old Warden	26	19	2	5	76	43	+33	59
Caldecote	26	16	4	6	73	39	+34	52
Oakley Sports	26	15	4	7	59	43	+16	49
Wilshamstead	26	11	8	7	66	54	+12	41
Southill Alexander	26	11	4	11	70	54	+16	37
Campton	26	11	3	12	57	55	+2	36
AFC Kempston Town	26	9	5	12	49	55	-6	32
Biggleswade United Reserves	26	10	2	14	50	63	-13	32
Sharnbrook	26	9	4	13	46	59	-13	31
Renhold United	26	7	9	10	44	57	-13	30
Woburn	26	8	4	14	55	65	-10	28
Dunton	26	6	5	15	37	59	-22	23
Westoning Recreation Club [Saturday]	26	2	1	23	40	119	-79	7

Saturday, 17 April 2010: Oakley Sports v Biggleswade United Reserves - Home Win was awarded

### Division One

It was a case of after The Lord Mayor's show for Leighton United, having won the Centenary Cup just the evening previous, they were to end their league season with a 1-2 home defeat at the hands of Stevington. First half goals from Richard Howlett and Gavin White taking the visitors into a 2-0 lead before Gary Holdsworth reduced the arrears in the second period.

### Division One Final League Table Season 2009-10

16 Teams	Games Played	Games Won	Games Drawn	Games Lost	Goals For	Goals Against	Goal Difference	Points
Flitwick Town	30	23	1	6	74	39	+35	70

Leighton United	30	20	4	6	83	42	+41	64
Caldecote Reserves	30	18	5	7	83	52	+31	59
Marston Social	30	17	6	7	69	40	+29	57
Bedford Sports Athletic	30	15	4	11	73	65	+8	49
Meltis Albion	30	13	7	10	61	57	+4	46
Ickwell & Old Warden Reserves	30	14	3	13	67	68	-1	45
Henlow	30	14	3	13	58	61	-3	45
Kempston	30	14	1	15	69	70	-1	43
FC Meppershall	30	12	5	13	79	80	-1	41
Sandy	30	12	2	16	77	59	+18	38
AFC Kempston Town Reserves	30	10	2	18	51	74	-23	32
Blunham Reserves	30	9	4	17	42	70	-28	31
Campton Reserves	30	9	3	18	49	77	-28	30
Stevington	30	8	5	17	54	85	-31	29
Kempston Hammers Sports	30	4	1	25	51	101	-50	13

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

Saturday, 03 April 2010: Flitwick Town v Kempston Hammers Sports - Home Win was awarded

Wednesday, 14 April 2010: Stevington v Bedford Sports Athletic - Away Win was awarded

Monday, 19 April 2010: Leighton United v Kempston Hammers Sports - Home Win was awarded

Saturday, 24 April 2010: Leighton United v AFC Kempston Town Reserves - Home Win was awarded

Saturday, 24 April 2010: Kempston Hammers Sports v Stevington - Away Win was awarded

Saturday, 24 April 2010: Marston Social v Henlow - Away Win was awarded

Saturday, 24 April 2010: Campton Reserves v Blunham Reserves - Home Win was awarded

Wednesday, 28 April 2010: Marston Social v Campton Reserves - Home Win was awarded

Wednesday, 28 April 2010: FC Meppershall v Kempston - Home Win was awarded

## **Division Two**

Unlike in the top division, the division two title race was to have a totally unsatisfactory ending when Arleseey Social Galacticos failed to raise a side to travel to face league leaders Potton Wanderers at Mill Lane. Thus the award of the three points



to The Wanderers, left Bedford Hatters needing to win by 18 goals or more at Shefford Town to clinch the title.

Hatters, indeed winning their 10th game on the bounce at Shefford Town. Alas for them only by a 4-1 scoreline, Scott Alleyne and Michael Fry netting in the opening half plus Ashley Deverall and Aaron Izzard in the second period against a lone Town reply from Dan Pinkerton.

#### Division Two Final Table Season 2009-10

14 Teams	Games Played	Games Won	Games Drawn	Games Lost	Goals For	Goals Against	Goal Difference	Points
Potton Wanderers	26	22	2	2	120	25	+95	68
Bedford Hatters	26	22	2	2	116	35	+81	68
Marston Shelton Rovers	26	18	4	4	94	38	+56	58
Brache Sparta Community Reserves	26	16	6	4	87	39	+48	54
Arlesey Social Galacticos	26	13	5	8	60	51	+9	44
Shefford Town	26	10	5	11	65	58	+7	35
Kings AFC	26	9	5	12	72	73	-1	32
Marabese Ceramics	26	9	4	13	32	41	-9	31
Harpur FC	26	9	3	14	57	88	-31	30
Great Barford	26	7	5	14	46	74	-28	26
Clifton	26	5	10	11	48	74	-26	25
Kempston Royals	26	6	5	15	41	75	-34	23
Elstow Abbey 06	26	5	2	19	37	104	-67	17
Shillington [Saturday]	26	1	2	23	32	132	-100	5

Saturday, 27 March 2010: Shillington [Saturday] v Harpur FC - Away Win was awarded

Wednesday, 28 April 2010: Marabese Ceramics v Shillington [Saturday] - Away Win was awarded

Saturday, 01 May 2010: Kings AFC v Elstow Abbey 06 - Home Win was awarded

Saturday, 01 May 2010: Shefford Town v Harpur FC - Home Win was awarded

Saturday, 08 May 2010: Potton Wanderers v Arlesey Social Galacticos - Home Win was awarded

### **Division Three**

Stopsley Park will now finish the season in third spot and Renhold Village in fifth place after the Park came away with a 6-1 victory from Renhold Playing Fields. Jack O'Shea and Simon Richards both hitting braces alongside an own goal and a single strike from Stuart Lyons, whilst Marcus Joseph netted the lone home reply.

#### **Division Three Final League Table Season 2009-10**

<b>10 Teams</b>	<b>Games Played</b>	<b>Games Won</b>	<b>Games Drawn</b>	<b>Games Lost</b>	<b>Goals For</b>	<b>Goals Against</b>	<b>Goal Difference</b>	<b>Points</b>
Queens Park Crescents	18	13	3	2	63	24	+39	42
Lidlington United Sports	18	10	4	4	43	31	+12	34
Stopsley Park	18	9	4	5	65	39	+26	31
Dunton Reserves	18	9	4	5	48	36	+12	31
Renhold Village	18	9	3	6	51	40	+11	30
Caldecote 'A'	18	7	2	9	40	73	-33	23
Wilshamstead Reserves	18	6	1	11	44	46	-2	19
Riseley Sports Reserves	18	6	0	12	46	66	-20	18
Westoning Recreation Club [Saturday] Reserves	18	4	5	9	30	39	-9	17
Sandy Reserves	18	3	2	13	26	62	-36	11

Wednesday, 28 April 2010: Wilshamstead Reserves v Renhold Village - Away Win was awarded

### **Division Four**

The final game of the season in this division seeing M & DH Oakley run out 5-2 home winners over Dinamo Flitwick. Shaun Cafferty, Ben Williams, Dan Lupton, Martin Sillet and Ben Meany all finding the back of the net against a brace in reply from Neil Hannam

#### **Division Four Final League Table Season 2009-10**

<b>11 Teams</b>	<b>Games Played</b>	<b>Games Won</b>	<b>Games Drawn</b>	<b>Games Lost</b>	<b>Goals For</b>	<b>Goals Against</b>	<b>Goal Difference</b>	<b>Points</b>
Sharnbrook Reserves	20	17	1	2	66	18	+48	52

Sundon Park Rangers [Saturday]	20	14	3	3	92	27	+65	45
M & DH Oakley	20	13	0	7	61	39	+22	39
Flitwick Town Reserves	20	10	2	8	51	53	-2	32
Thurleigh	20	8	4	8	45	45	+0	28
Dinamo Flitwick	20	8	3	9	50	45	+5	27
Eastcotts	20	7	4	9	40	44	-4	25
Clifton Reserves	20	7	4	9	50	55	-5	25
Stewartby Village	20	7	0	13	45	61	-16	21
Kempston Athletic	20	4	1	15	41	84	-43	13
Bedford Park Rangers	20	4	0	16	22	92	-70	12

Saturday, 06 March 2010: Flitwick Town Reserves v Stewartby Village - Away Win was awarded

Wednesday, 28 April 2010: Sharnbrook Reserves v Clifton Reserves - Home Win was awarded