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FOOTBALL LEAGUE

## THAME UNITED FOOTBALL CLUB

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The Pitching In Southern Football League Division One Central

Saturday 19 September 2020

Thame United

V

Bedford Town



OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME SPONSOR

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**Red Kite Radio is the voice for local people, and is the community radio service for Thame, Haddenham and the surrounding villages. You can listen on 107.2 FM and on the Internet via [redkiteradio.com](http://redkiteradio.com).**

We provide a platform for the huge range of organisations across our community, including charities, community groups, clubs, schools, sports teams, social initiatives and small businesses. **Red Kite Radio** is a professionally run and operated radio station, broadcasting from our studios at the Haddenham Garden Centre, run by a team of volunteer radio professionals with the help of local people. We provide news and information and can offer training to local people in radio and production.

#### **Thame United FC**

We are proud to sponsor our local team Thame United FC and to include their matches in our Saturday afternoon show, giving scores and results as well as upcoming fixtures. We'll be interviewing the team and management and promoting their special events and competitions.

#### **The history of Red Kite Radio**

Our story began with Summerfest Radio, the two-week broadcasts in support of the Haddenham Beer Festival. Summerfest has grown into one of the largest one-day beer festivals in England and to date has raised over £200,000 for good causes in our area. **Red Kite Radio** will continue to fully promote and support the Summerfest event and the Trust's winter festival too.

#### **Full-time radio for Thame and Haddenham**

In the summer of 2015 the team behind Summerfest Radio launched a bid to make **Red Kite Radio** a permanent fixture in Thame and Haddenham. We won backing from many organisations, including charities, schools, local businesses and John Bercow MP. In the spring of 2016 the hard work paid off when Ofcom, the government regulator of radio and television, awarded us a five-year community radio licence.

#### **Advertise with Red Kite Radio**

You can enjoy a range of advertising commercials with us, from three 30-second slots to a total of SEVEN slots a day. We can also promote specific campaigns like restaurant menu changes, special launch events, business openings and a wide range of announcements. We would be more than happy to discuss with you any specific requirements you have.

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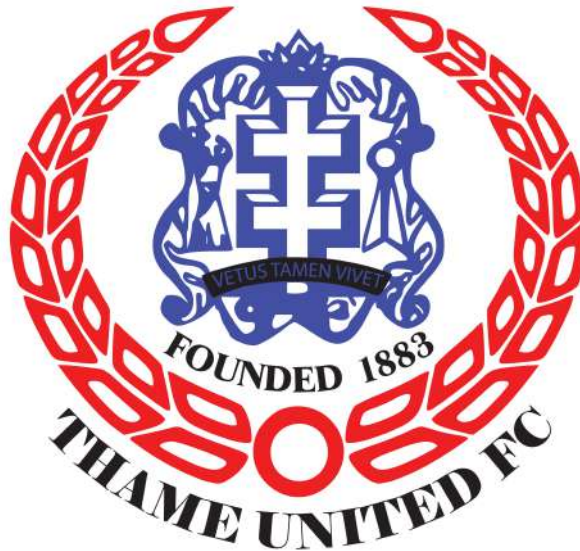
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# WELCOME



Good afternoon and welcome to the ASM Stadium for this Pitching In Southern Football League Division One Central tie between Thame United and Bedford Town. A warm welcome to all the players, officials and supporters from Bedford and we wish them all an enjoyable stay and a safe journey home.

There will have been many occasions over the last six months when we will all have wondered if and when football would return in the form that we knew it – and perhaps it never quite will and, in reality, that is insignificant in the context of the on-going pandemic and the many lives that have been lost.

Nevertheless, the fact that we are playing football and with only a slight delay from the normal programme is testament to our governing body, the league, and the many clubs and volunteers that have worked hard to ensure conditions are right and procedures are in place to best maintain safety. That relies on us all to follow the guidelines, procedures and protocols and I would ask that we all adhere to the latest guidance and policies when attending matches.

The game today is a reverse of the opening day fixture last season when we fell to a 2-1 defeat. Since then both sides have changed considerably, and both will be looking to get

off to a positive start in the league. Indeed, it was a frustrating afternoon last Saturday as we both fell to 1-0 defeats in the FA Cup, and both to second half penalties to our hosts, ourselves at Kidlington and Bedford at Daventry Town.

In uncertain times since March, the Management Team have been working hard to add to the existing squad of players and we are pleased to welcome Harry Tucker (Staines Town), Jamar Smith (Kidlington) and Callum Harvey (Ardley United) to the Club.

After today we travel to Didcot Town in the league next Saturday – a fixture that has been pulled forward from a Tuesday night in October - before travelling across to West Oxfordshire on Tuesday 29 September to face North Leigh.

We also wish the Thame United Youth Team good luck on Monday evening when they also travel to Didcot Town in the FA Youth Cup – having successfully beaten Hungerford Town in the previous round.

Enjoy the match

Jake Collinge

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<b>THAME UNITED</b>		<b>BEDFORD TOWN</b>
Chris Rackley	1	Jamie Greygoose
Harry Mepham	2	Ross Watson
David Lynn	3	Will Summerfield
Harry Tucker	4	Drew Richardson
Callum Mapley	5	Joe Steele
Tom Ashworth	6	Rob Sinclair
Greg Hackett	7	Matt Harriott
Ben Sturgess	8	Matt Sparrow
Jack Tutton	9	Thomas Hitchcock
Dan West	10	Rene Howe
Ryan Blake	11	Connor Tomlinson
Jamar Smith	12	Dan Walker
Lynton Goss	14	Jake Newman
Callum Harvey	15	Brett Longden
Matt Peake-Pijnen	16	Josh Page
Liam Tack	17	
Mark West	Manager	Mark Duckett
Stuart Blaik	Assistant	Graeme Tomlinson
Ben Johnson	Coach	Ronayne Marsh-Brown

#### MATCH OFFICIALS

(Ref) G Enever	(Asst 1) A Overthrow	(Asst 2) M Ealey
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# THAME UNITED HISTORY

Thame United were formed in 1883 making it one of Oxfordshires' oldest clubs. The early years were spent in various Oxfordshire Leagues and in 1906, 1909 and 1910 Thame won the Oxfordshire Senior Cup and the Senior League in 1907,1908, 1910, 1930 and 1931. A switch to the Hellenic League then brought further success culminating in the Hellenic League title in 1961-62 and 1969-70, as well as being runners up in 1960-61, 1976-77 and 1980-81. The Oxfordshire Senior Cup was won in both 1976 and 1981 but a poor spell in the mid eighties preceded a crossing of the pyramid in 1988-89 to join the South Midlands League. The Club finished runners up in both 1988-89 and 1989-90 before eventually winning the title in 1990-91.

Thame received the green light to join the Diadora League in 1991/92. 1994-95 saw the Club win the Division 2 Championship with 93 points - an 11 point margin. In 1995/96 the Club reached the 3rd Round Qualifying in the FA Cup and the FA Trophy. In the league we finished a creditable 13th in our first ever season in the Isthmian League Division One. Andy Sinnott was appointed first team manager in June 1997 and, with a dramatically reduced operating budget, the side were relegated into Ryman Division Two. The Club bounced straight back into Ryman Division One and reached the semi-finals of the FA Vase. 1999/2000 saw the Club come within two points of achieving promotion to the Premier Division.

2000/2001 season the team lead the way for most of the season, putting together a club record of 12 consecutive league wins but a slump in form in the latter part of the season resulted in a 5th place finish. A mid-table finish followed in 2001/2002 season but the Oxfordshire Senior Cup was retained. Mark West was appointed player/manager when Andy left United during the Summer of 2003. In October 2003 the Club reached the 4th qualifying round of the FA Cup for the first time in its history, before being beaten 1-2 by Conference side Farnborough Town.

After a mid-table finish the Club moved to the newly formed Southern League, Division 1 West. In October 2004 the Club again reached the FA Cup 4th qualifying round and finished the season 11th in the league. Mark West left to join Slough Town and defender Tony Joyce was appointed player /manager.

By July 2005 the Club were in financial trouble and, following a visit from Bailiffs acting on behalf of HMRC, the landlord enforced

a clause in the tenancy agreement and evicted the club from Windmill Road. However, shortly thereafter Thame United reached a formal agreement with the new owners of Windmill Road that secured £1.7 million to enable a new facility to be constructed in the town and, after several options had been explored and found to be available, settled on Church Farm on the northern edge of the town. Whilst the Club progressed procurement of the new site, and the necessary planning permission, a ground share agreement was reached with neighbours Aylesbury United and, with the side struggling at the foot of the Southern League Division 1 West, Tony Joyce resigned in December 2005, with a new joint managerial partnership of Richard Searl and Alan Thorne appointed. Relegation to the Hellenic League was confirmed later in the season. A ground share agreement was reached with AFC Wallingford for the 2006/07 season. Mark West returned to the Club mid-way through the season but could not save the Club from relegation to the Hellenic League Division 1 East. The 2007/08 season provided greater stability for the Club, with Mark West and new assistant, Frank Thompson, looking after first team affairs. A mid-table finish resulted, which was followed by a ninth placed finish in 2008/09. 2009/10 saw the Club win the Division 1 East title by six points and reclaim their place in the Premier Division.

The 2010/11 season was the most significant in the Club's recent history. With work on a new £3.1m ground at Meadow View Park commencing in March 2010, United returned to Thame at the ASM Stadium on 11 December 2010, just over five years after their enforced eviction from the town. Boasting eight pitches, a floodlit 3G training pitch and 8000sqft clubhouse, United now have one of the best sporting facilities in the County. The official opening against Oxford United on 18th January 2011 set a record crowd of 1,382.

Season 2016-17 was one of the most successful in the recent history of the Club. Going the whole league season without losing at home, United were crowned Hellenic League Premier Division Champions on the final day of the season, defeating Henley Town 9-0 to overturn a seven goal deficit. United were duly promoted to the Southern Football League, returning after a spell of twelve years away. The first season ended with a comfortable mid-table finish, with Dan West securing the Golden Boot award. This was followed by an 8<sup>th</sup> place finish, with United sitting 10<sup>th</sup> before last season was curtailed.

# THAME UNITED FIXTURES 2020/21

## SEPT

12 KIDLINGTON (A) FA CUP  
19 BEDFORD TOWN (H)  
29 NORTH LEIGH (A)

## DEC

5 DAVENTRY TOWN (H)  
12 KEMPSTON ROVERS (A)  
19 CORBY TOWN (H)  
26 AYLESBURY UTD (H)

## MAR

6 BARTON ROVERS (H)  
13 DAVENTRY TOWN (A)  
20 WELWYN GARDEN CITY (A)  
27 WANTAGE TOWN (H)

## OCT

3 BEDWORTH UNITED (A)  
6 COLESHILL TOWN (H)  
10 WELWYN GARDEN CITY (H)  
17 TBD (H) FA TROPHY  
24 WANTAGE TOWN (A)  
27 DIDCOT TOWN (A)  
31 YAXLEY (H)

## JAN

2 KIDLINGTON (A)  
9 NORTH LEIGH (H)  
16 AFC DUNSTABLE (A)  
23 DIDCOT TOWN (H)  
30 YAXLEY (A)

## APR

3 AFC DUNSTABLE (H)  
5 AYLESBURY UTD (A)  
10 BEDWORTH UNITED (H)  
17 BEDFORD TOWN (A)  
24 CORBY TOWN (A)

## NOV

3 BERKHAMPSTED (H)  
7 ST NEOTS TOWN (A)  
14 BARTON ROVERS (A)  
21 HALESOWEN TOWN (H)  
28 BIGGLESWADE (A)

## FEB

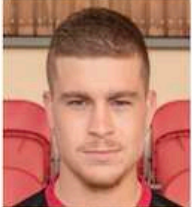




6 ST NEOTS TOWN (H)  
13 BERKHAMPSTED (A)  
20 BIGGLESWADE (H)  
27 HALESOWEN TOWN (A)

## MAY


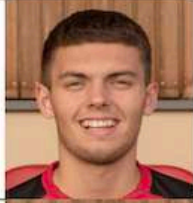
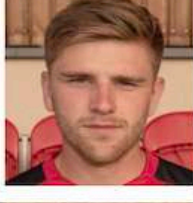
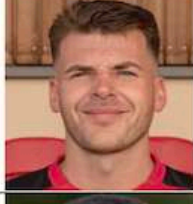

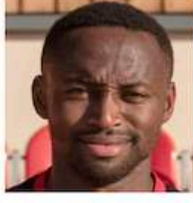
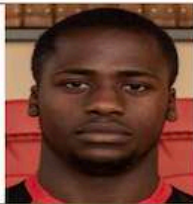

1 KEMPSTON ROVERS (H)  
3 KIDLINGTON (H)  
8 COLESHILL TOWN (A)



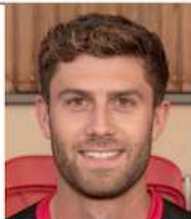
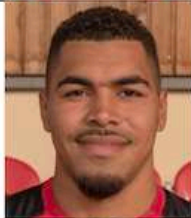
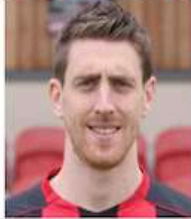




# THAME UNITED SQUAD

	<p><b>Chris Rackley:</b> Goalkeeper (Age: 28)</p> <p>Joined the Club in March 2020, just prior to lockdown. Experienced keeper and FA Vase winner with Thatcham Town in 2017/18. Also played for Abingdon United and Basingstoke Town.</p>	<p><b>SPONSOR</b></p> <p>@thameunitedfc</p> <p>Warz Goalkeeping</p>
	<p><b>Matt Peake-Pijnen:</b> Defence (Age: 21)</p> <p>Versatile player who is comfortable on either flank. Joined United in December 2018 from neighbours Aylesbury United. Previously with Oxford City and Banbury United.</p>	<p><b>SPONSOR</b></p> 
	<p><b>Callum Mapley:</b> Defence (Age: 21)</p> <p>Arrived at the Club in the close season from neighbours Aylesbury United. Previously been with Beaconsfield Town and already proved to be a solid and assured defender.</p>	<p><b>SPONSOR</b></p>
	<p><b>Harry Tucker:</b> Defence (Age: 22)</p> <p>Strong and highly effective centre back who joined the Club at the start of the season having spent last year at Staines Town. Previous Clubs include Uxbridge and Aylesbury United</p>	<p><b>SPONSOR</b></p>
	<p><b>Harry Mepham:</b> Defence (Age: 22)</p> <p>Joined at the start of the 2017/18 season from Beaconsfield Town and has been a virtual ever-present since. Reads the game well with good distribution.</p>	<p><b>SPONSOR</b></p>
	<p><b>David Lynn:</b> Defence (Age: 25)</p> <p>Solid and assured left back with good technical ability. Now in his sixth season with the Club having previously been with Oxford United, Chesham United and Banbury United.</p>	<p><b>SPONSOR</b></p> <p>Way Builders</p>
	<p><b>Thomas Ashworth:</b> Midfield (Age: 22)</p> <p>Progressed through the youth team to be an ever-present for the last four seasons. Keeps it simple, but scorer of important goals.</p>	<p><b>SPONSOR</b></p> <p>ABS Security</p>

# THAME UNITED SQUAD

	<p><b>Liam Tack:</b> Midfield/Striker (Age: 24)</p> <p>In his second spell with the club having re-joined from Hanwell Town in December 2019. Tricky with a good range of passing. Previous clubs include Flackwell Heath.</p>	<b>SPONSOR</b>
	<p><b>Jack Tutton:</b> Midfield (Age: 21)</p> <p>Joined United from North Leigh in January 2019 having previously been with Oxford City. Energetic and hard working midfield player who gets forward and causes problems in the opposition area.</p>	<b>SPONSOR</b>
	<p><b>Greg Hackett:</b> Midfield (Age 24)</p> <p>Signed at the start of the last season having spent the latter half of 2018/19 with Didcot Town. Another wide player who contributes his fair share of goals. Previously with Oxford United</p>	<p><b>SPONSOR</b></p> <p>Jake Collinge Planning Consultancy</p>
	<p><b>Ben Sturgess:</b> Midfield (Age: 33)</p> <p>Club captain who arrived at the start of the 2017/18 season from Flackwell Heath. Vastly experienced central midfield player who commands respect and expects nothing less than winning.</p>	<p><b>SPONSOR</b></p> <p>AKR Construction</p>
	<p><b>Jamar Smith:</b> Midfield (Age: 19)</p> <p>Quick wide player who causes opposition defenders problems with his strength and trickery. Joined United at the start of the season having previously been with Kidlington.</p>	<b>SPONSOR</b>
	<p><b>Ryan Blake:</b> Midfield/Striker (Age: 29)</p> <p>Signed in the early part of the 2019/20 season from Chesham United. Brought with him a wealth of experience - quick and dangerous player with an eye for goal.</p>	<p><b>SPONSOR</b></p> <p>Tim Michael</p>
	<p><b>Noah Alabi:</b> Midfield/Strike (Age:19)</p> <p>In his second spell with the Club having re-joined from North Leigh. Provides an abundance of pace and trickery from wide positions.</p>	<b>SPONSOR</b>
	<p><b>Callum Harvey:</b> Striker (Age: 22)</p> <p>First season with the Club, having spent the latter half of last season with Ardley United. Quick and energetic with an eye for goal. Previous clubs include Kidlington</p>	<b>SPONSOR</b>

# THAME UNITED SQUAD

	<p><b>Daniel West:</b> Striker (Age: 27)</p> <p>Joined eight years ago from Oxford United, initially as midfield player, but moved forward scoring 25 goals in the Championship winning side of 2016/17 before claiming the Golden Boot in the Southern League East Division in 2017/1</p>	<p><b>SPONSOR</b></p> <p>Tim Michael / Jake Collinge Planning Consultancy</p>
	<p><b>Lynton Goss:</b> Striker (Age: 25)</p> <p>Prolific striker who, scored over 80 goals for United in the 2016/17 and 2017/18 seasons before making the move to Harrow Borough. Returned to the Club in October 2018.</p>	<p><b>SPONSOR</b></p>
	<p><b>Andy Gledhill:</b> Striker (Age: 31)</p> <p>Been with the Club for a number of years, enjoying his best goalscoring spell during the Championship winning side of 2016/17, before suffering bad luck with injuries. Now returned to full fitness.</p>	<p><b>SPONSOR</b></p>
	<p><b>Mark West:</b> Manager (Age: 54)</p> <p>Former player with Thame United who re-joined the Club for his second spell as Manager in January 2007. Prolific goalscorer with Wycombe Wanderers, Slough Town and Farnborough Town.</p>	<p><b>SPONSOR</b></p> <p>IMS</p>
	<p><b>stuart Blaik:</b> Assistant Manager (Age: 49)</p> <p>FA Level 3 Coach now in his fifth season with the Club. Previously with Aylesbury United, Corby Town, Nuneaton Borough, Brackley Town, Buckingham Town and Tring Town.</p>	<p><b>SPONSOR</b></p>
	<p><b>Ben Johnson:</b> Coach (Age: 34)</p> <p>Former player who has since gone on to manage the Development side and Reserve Team. Stepped-up to First Team level last season</p>	<p><b>SPONSOR</b></p>
	<p><b>Matt Timberlake:</b> Goalkeeping Coach</p> <p>Been involved with Thame United and of other local sides for a number of years, brings experience and expertise.</p>	<p><b>SPONSOR</b></p>

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## Thame United visit Invictus Gym

Thame United Put Through Their Paces at Invictus Fitness, Thame

Invictus Fitness were delighted to invite some of the Thame United team to a bespoke training session on Monday night (07/09/20)

In preparation for their FA cup game on Saturday 12th vs Kidlington, the team were put through their paces in a bespoke SPIIT (Spin and HiIT) session. Choreographed by Chev Sherman of CS Training & Nutrition

Chev specialises in Strength and Conditioning Styled Training, Return to Fitness, Sports Massage and Nutrition. As part of the Invictus team, he was keen to put the lads through a training session to improve overall fitness and muscular endurance. He also wanted to test where they are at, and boy were they tested!

Ben Johnson- Coach, took part in the session 'This week is a massive week for the club as we play in the FA cup Saturday, being invited to the gym for a SPIIT class with Chev was the perfect start to our preparations. All the boys loved their time at the gym, and there was a good buzz amongst the group. We are all set for the next class. Many thanks to Martin (Shipperley, Owner) Chev, Emma and the whole Invictus Team'.

Chev will be working closely with the Thame United team during the upcoming season and working with them to bring a new dimension to their existing training schedule whether the goal is fitness, endurance, strength, or speed.

Ben Sturgess – Captain of the team had this to say 'We were welcomed in with open arms to the Invictus gym. All COVID measures were very thorough. The facilities are second to none and speaking from a playing perspective; it's a very impressive setup. The boys were put through their paces by Chev. A great SPIIT workout and something all of us would love to do again. Couldn't recommend the gym highly enough from Emma with her organisation to Chev, who took a really enjoyable class. We hope we can use the facility in the coming weeks.'

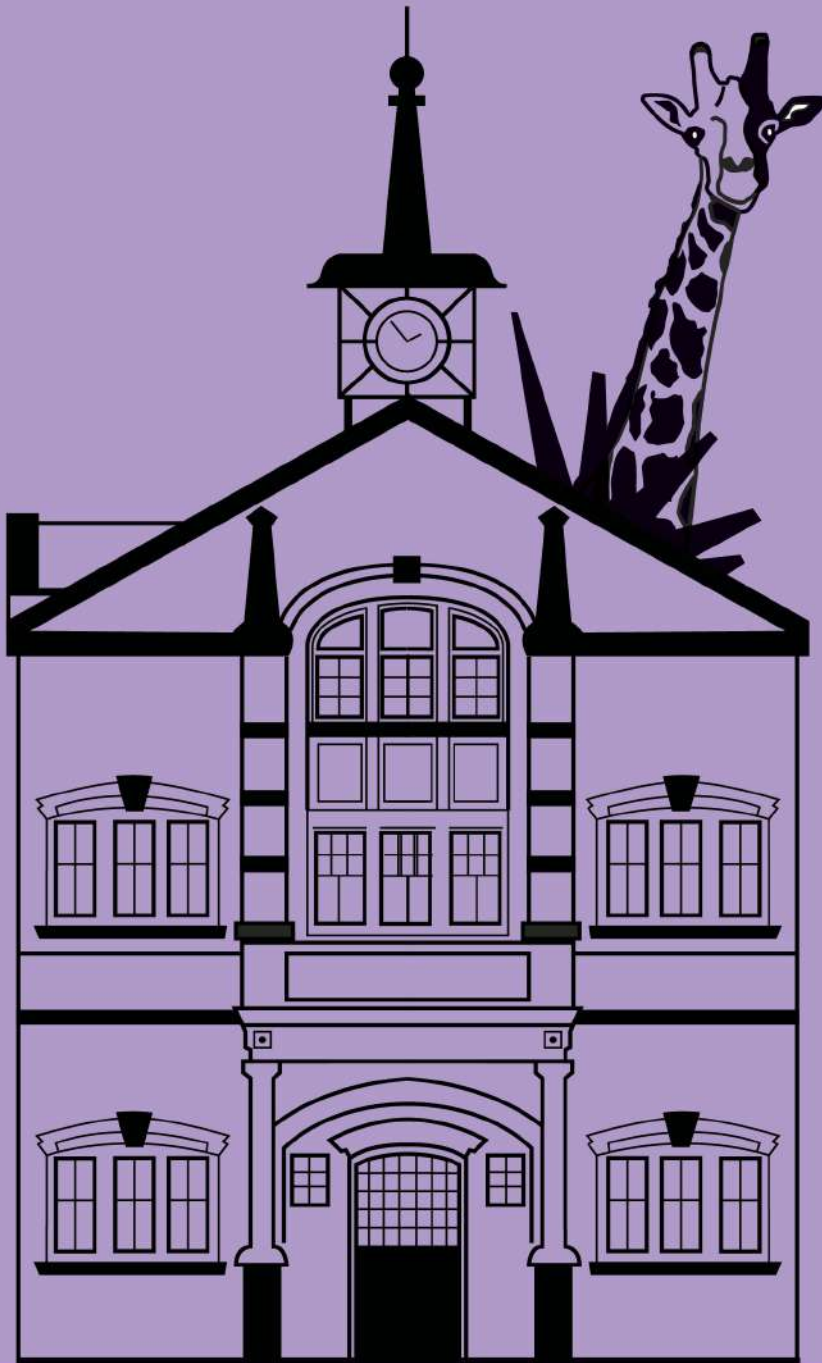
We didn't limit the class to just the team and coaches; Assistant Manager Stuart Blaik got stuck in too. 'A huge thanks to Invictus Fit for hosting a gym session on Monday night for Thame United First Team. The lads were put through a gruelling session by PT Chev! It's the first time the lads have seen inside this facility, and it is awesome! Hopefully, we will be able to arrange further sessions in the coming weeks and months. I'm sure a few will be aching! It's great to team up and have the support of a fantastic local gym'

Invictus Fitness centre Thame on Wenman Road is a state-of-the-art gym with dedicated, weights, cardio, boxing, and spin zones. Running over 30 classes a week there is something for everyone with memberships from as little £37.50.

If you are interested in bespoke training sessions for professional sports teams, please get in touch. Alternately if you are looking for individual memberships, pop in and see what we are all about.

Invictus Fitness [www.invictusfitnesscentre.co.uk](http://www.invictusfitnesscentre.co.uk)  
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# BEDFORD TOWN FC SQUAD

## **Jon Taylor** – Director of football and operations

Jon took the vacant manager's job in September 2015 after the sudden departure of our previous manager, Dan Kennoy. Jon has a wealth of experience across non-league having managed at Arlesey Town, St Neots Town and Hereford United. The 52 year old also lives in Bedford so is well aware of local talent. Following the death of his father in October 2019, Jon stepped up to Director of the club.

## **Mark Duckett** – Manager

Mark joined the club in January 2020 following the departure of Nathan Abbey. His first game was the 3:1 defeat to Yaxley on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2020. Mark has a good playing background, having been at numerous clubs including Bedford, St. Neots Town, Codicote, Hemel Hempstead Town, Bedford Town, Hitchin Town, Brackley Town, Corby Town, Barry Town, Aberystwyth Town, Braintree Town and Stevenage Borough. He also played for the Eagles over two spells, before his playing career was cut short at 29 due to injury. Since retiring, Mark has gone on to successfully manage Eynesbury Rovers at step five. His tenure there has resulted in them securing a top half position over the last few seasons, and strong runs in the FA Vase this season and last.

## **Graeme Tomlinson** - Coach

Graeme joined the coaching staff in the summer of 2020, starting at Mark Duckett's coach. He had an excellent playing career, starting at Bradford City earning him a move to Manchester United playing alongside Eric Cantona and the class of 92. After leaving United, he played for several clubs, including the Eagles. He now owns his own business and enjoys helping out the club.

## **Ronayne Marsh-Brown** Coach

Ronayne joined the coaching staff under Nathan Abbey on New Years Day 2020. The left sided player had several clubs throughout his playing career, which involved scholarships at Gillingham and Football League matches. He played for the Eagles late in his career and is now involved in the coaching line up.

## **Jazzy Dolby** (Physio)

Jazzy joined the Eagles in the summer of 2020 from Eynesbury Rovers, having worked with Mark Duckett there for the last five years. She has a BSc (Hons) in Sports Therapy, an intermediate trauma medical management in football qualification and a level three administering emergency medical gases. Jazzy has worked within the football industry for over eight years, starting off with work experience at MK Dons academy and several semi-pro clubs, before moving on to Eynesbury. She recently left her role as Head Sports Therapist/Head of medical at Brooke House College football academy, which is an international football academy.

## **Jamie Greygoose** (Goalkeeper)

Jamie is a lively goalkeeper, who surprises people with his size. He joined the club in February 2020, and went on to make several man of the match performances before lockdown. Before coming to the Eagles, he was with Eynesbury Rovers, St. Neots Town, Haverhill Rangers and Bury Town.

## **Brett Longden** (Defence)

Has signed for the Eagles in the close season. Brett was at AFC Dunstable last season. Previous clubs include St. Ives Town, Chesham United, St. Neots Town, and Luton Town.

## **Joe Steele** (Defence)

Joe joined the Eagles in November 2018 from AFC Dunstable. He is a local player and established himself into the side in February 2019.

## **Ross Watson** (Defence)

Ross joined the club in January 2020 from Yaxley. Before coming to the Eyrie, he was involved with King's Lynn Town, Holbeach United, Spalding United, AFC Sudbury, Stamford, Blackstones, Cambridge City and Rushden & Diamonds. The defender agreed to become Club captain in the summer of 2020.

## **Josh Page** (Midfield)

Josh is a product of our youth system. He played in Australia with Perth Scorchers before returning the UK for his education. He was involved with the first team throughout preseason in 2020.

# BEDFORD TOWN FC SQUAD

## **Matt Harriott** (Midfield)

Matt joined the Eagles for a second time in November 2019. He was previously with Hendon, Wealdstone, Hemel Hempstead Town, Hayes & Yeading United, Northampton Town, Alfreton Town (loan), Burton Albion (loan), Sheffield United.

## **Matt Sparrow** (Midfield)

We welcomed Matt to the club in August 2020. The 25 year old lively winger joins the club from Peterborough Sports, where he was last season. Previously, he was also with Cambridge City and Yaxley, where he scored 21 goals in 51 appearances.

## **Drew Richardson** (Midfield)

Drew joined the Eagles in the summer of 2020, having spent last season at Biggleswade Town FC. The young prospect spent his youth at Luton Town. His performances secured a contract in August 2020.

## **Rob Sinclair** (Midfield)

Rob is an experienced midfielder who has played the majority of his career in the National League or Football League. He joined the club in the summer of 2020, returning to his hometown club where he grew up. Previously he has been with Hemel Hempstead Town, Oxford City, Forest Green Rovers, Salisbury City, Aldershot Town (loan), Stevenage and Luton Town.

## **Will Summerfield** (Midfield)

Will joined the Eagles in the summer of 2020. He originally played for the club on a months loan deal back in 2014 whilst he was with MK Dons. Following his release from stadium:MK he has been on to play for Bovingdon, Hemel Hempstead Town and Arlesey Town. He is another local lad who lives in Bedford.

## **Connor Tomlinson** (Attacking Midfield)

Connor joined the Eagles in the summer of 2019 following his release from Luton Town. He is a lively 18 year old who has extreme talent. The son of former Eagle, and Manchester United forward, Greame, Connor agreed a two year contract with the club in 2019.

## **Dan Walker** (Attack)

Dan joined the club in the summer of 2018, ten years after he first signed for the Eagles. He has played for numerous Conference National sides, including Luton Town and Aldershot.

## **Tom Hitchcock** (Attack)

The 26 year old forward joined the Eagles in October 2019, following a wealth of experience in the game. At a young age, he made Premier League appearances for Blackburn Rovers and Queens Park Rangers. After loan spells at Plymouth, Bristol Rovers, Crewe Alexandra and Rotherham, he joined Milton Keynes Dons in 2014 and was with them for three seasons. After leaving the Dons, he had spells with Biggleswade Town, Boreham Woods, Chelmsford and Chesham. Last season he spent time with Cheshunt and Harlow, where he scored 5 goals in 11 games.

## **Rene Howe** (Attack)

Rene returned to the Eyrrie in the summer of 2020, fourteen years after he departed as a teenager. The young Rene was instrumental in our promotion to Conference South in 2006, but moved to Kettering Town the same summer. A successful spell in the football league followed playing at Peterborough, Burton, Torquay United, Rochdale and Newport County. Since dropping out the football league, he has played at Farnborough, Walton Casuals and Kettering. He is now back at the Eyrrie where it all began.

## **Jake Newman** (Attack)

Jake joined the club in the New Year of 2020, signing transfer forms from Kempston Rovers. He has previously been with St Ives Town, Peterborough Sports, AFC Rushden & Diamonds, Stamford, Spalding United, Wellingborough Town, Oadby Town, Kettering Town, Northampton Sileby Rangers. Most notably, he has an impressive record for our neighbours Kempston Rovers, scoring over 50 goals in two and a half seasons at the club.



# FA Youth Cup

## Vs Thame United

Date: Monday 21st September

Kick Off: 7:30pm

Loop Meadow,  
Bowmont Water,  
Didcot

Adults - £3

Concessions - £1



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# BEDFORD TOWN FC HISTORY

Bedford Town, nickname "The Eagles" was founded in 1908 and in the early years they played in the United Counties League and its predecessors, the Northampton League and Northampton Alliance. In 1945, The Eagles moved to the Southern League but achieved little during the first seasons. The club received a much needed boost when in February 1951 Ronnie Rooke was signed as Player/Manager. This signing captured the imagination of the public for "Rookie" was a well known footballer, having played for Arsenal, Fulham, Crystal Palace and England.

## "Giant Killers"

However, it was not until season 1955-56 that the Eagles started on the first of their great cup runs which would see them achieve national fame as "Giant Killers" with a number of fine wins over league opposition including Watford 3-2, Norwich 2-4, Newcastle 1-2, Exeter 1-2, Brighton 2-1 and Oxford 1-0. But possibly their greatest achievement was to draw 2-2 with Arsenal at Highbury watched by a crowd of over 55,000 in season 1955-56. The Eagles nearly caused a major shock in the replay leading 1-0 until 4 minutes from time before going down 1-2 after extra time, having had 2 goals disallowed for offside. During the 60's, changes of manager were made in a succession of two year spells with Reg Smith taking over from Rooke followed by Basil Hayward in 1963, Ron Burgess 1965, Ron Heckman 1967, Alan Wright 1969, Reg Smith again in 1971, Brian Garvey, Jim Walker, Barry Fry 1977 and finally Trevor Gould. The last game for the Club was against Nuneaton Borough away on the 4th May 1982, with the Eagles going down 1-0. And so after 74 years the end came in 1982 when the owners of the football ground in Queens Park exercised their right to terminate the lease and when plans to build a new stadium near Barkers Lane, Bedford, failed, the Club was wound up.

On the 5th May 1989, a group of Eagles supporters met to start a campaign to re-form Bedford Town FC, which was so successful that they obtained Council permission to play their home games on a public pitch in Queens Park. With Tony Sullivan as team manager, they were elected to the South Midlands League and finished fourth Terry King was tempted out of retirement to team up with Tony Sullivan for the 1992-93 season and a number of early wins put them on the way to a runaway championship.

This meant that the Club had to find their own ground in order to be promoted. The Council finally decided a site at Meadow Lane, Cardington, a former council tree nursery, would be the most appropriate and with financial support from the council and much hard work from supporters and committee members, the New Eyrie was ready for the opening night game against Peterborough United watched by a crowd of over 3,000. So the Eagles went into the SML Premier Division, won their first game and remained top of the league all season. Another race against time saw the ground upgraded and a rollercoaster campaign saw Bedford claim the 3rd promotion spot in the final week of the season. The Eagles started season 1995-96 with high hopes of a 4th successive promotion. But the team who gained promotion from Division Three never really settled to life at a higher level, and a string of bad results meant that relegation was a distinct possibility. The Committee acted quickly to bring in Mick Foster from Beazer Homes Buckingham Town who brought several players with him which resulted in the Club finishing in a respectable 8th place. Season 1996-7 was one of inconsistency, which cost the Eagles any chance of promotion. However, the Town finished in 7th place - the highest position since the Club was reformed. The season 1997-98 saw an exciting finale when a late run by the Eagles saw them just fail to pip Wealdstone to the 3rd promotion spot and have to settle for 4th position. The Town also won 2 cup competitions, the Beds. Premier Cup and the Vandanel Cup. Season 1998/99 - With just a few days to go before the start of the season, the Club parted company with the Manager and former players Tony Luff and Jason Reed were appointed joint managers. The Town enjoyed an excellent FA Vase run getting to the 5th Round when they were drawn at home to the holders Tiverton Town. The Eagles lost 1-2 in front of a crowd of 1,566 and Tiverton went on to retain the Cup. Season 1999/2000 - After a poor start to the season the eagles parted company with the Luff and Reed and the club acted swiftly and Roger Ashby was appointed Manager. The Club finished in 8th spot. In the FA Trophy the Eagles reached the 4th Round against Conference side Yeovil. The Eagles lost 0-4. The attendance of 2,010 was the highest attendance for a competitive game since the club was re-formed.

Season 2000-2001 - The Eagles finishing runners-up in Ryman Division One, gaining promotion to the Premier Division, losing only four league games all campaign. The Club also became a Private Limited Company at the beginning of the season and David Howell took over the club as Chairman. Season 2001-2002 - The League campaign got off to a disastrous start, losing the first seven matches before taking three points on the 8th attempt at Hendon with a 2-1 victory. The league campaign would always be difficult after that, and it wasn't until mid February that the club finally pulled away from the bottom two when the team put together a tremendous nine game unbeaten run. The FA Cup campaign was a memorable one, reaching the 1st Round proper. In front of the Match of the Day cameras the Eagles drew 0-0 at home to 2nd Division Peterborough United and took the "Posh" to a deserved replay at London Road in front of over 5,500 people. The Eagles eventually went down 2-1 and were unfortunate not to have won the game.

Season 2002/03 - After the departure Roger Ashby, former Northampton Town boss Kevin Wilson was appointed as manager of Bedford Town in October. Kevin played at the highest level and was capped by Northern Ireland 42 times. League form improved dramatically and the club finished in its highest league position of 9th since reformation.

# BEDFORD TOWN FC HISTORY

Season 2003/04 - In October 2003 Manager Kevin Wilson and his Assistant Lee Howey resigned from the club to join Aylesbury United. Reserve and PASE Coach Dave Randall took charge in October 2003 but agreed to stand down in January 2004 after a poor run of league results. He was immediately replaced by Nick Platnauer.

Season 2004/05 - After a shaky start an upturn in form saw the Eagles win 12 home league games on the trot and reach 2nd place. Unfortunately injuries took their toll and eventually slipped to 5th by the end of the season. Bedford reached the semi final of the play off losing on penalties to Chippenham Town. The Eagles also lost 3-2 over two legs to Kings Lynn in the League Cup final, but silverware did come to the club in the form of the Bedfordshire Senior Cup, beating Barton Rovers in the final 2-1.

Season 2005/06 - The club moved into its new facilities at the beginning of this season with a new function room and football facilities up to National Conference standard. The club were consistent throughout the season and earned a Play off final spot at Chippenham. The Eagles had their day with a magnificent 3-2 win, the winning goal coming from a wonder strike by Tom Bonner two minutes from time. The Eagles now facing a new challenge in Nationwide South, the highest standard the club have played in since re-formation in 1990.

Season 2006/07 - After struggling for most of the season Manager Nick Platnauer handed in his resignation in February 2007. Stuart Bimson was appointed Caretaker Manager and was eventually given the post. Although results did improve relegation was confirmed on the 7th of April in a 2-0 defeat at Newport County.

Season 2007/08 - Another poor season saw the Eagles relegated. However due to financial problems with other clubs Bedford escaped the drop. In the middle of our preparations for 2008/09 Manager Stuart Bimson left the club to take a position at Cambridge United as Assistant Manager. Former Club Captain and Assistant Manager Lee Howarth was appointed 1st Team Manager.

Season 2008/09 - The Eagles at least consolidated their position and achieved 15th place in the league which could have been much better if the teams away form had been up to scratch. The team only picked up 5 results on their travels with 4 wins and 1 draw.

Season 2009/10 - The season proved to be another struggle for the Eagles. Conceding 88 goals in the league made life difficult to pick up regular points. After the departure of Manager Lee Howarth in March after a 6-1 defeat at Farnborough, former Reading Captain and Welsh International Ady Williams took over the reigns with the club looking at the distinct possibility of relegation. The fight came down to the last game of the season when we ran out 2-0 winners over Tiverton Town and escaped relegation by a point.

Season 2010/11 - Pre-season promise did not materialise and with only one league win in the first twelve and early exits from FA Cup and Trophy saw manager Ady Williams resign in October. Long serving Assistant and former Reserves Manager Ady Hall was appointed as Manager.

Season 2011/12 - The season didn't start well and early exits from the FA Cup and FA trophy both against East Thurrock didn't help matters. Former manager Nick Platnauer returned to the fold as assistant manager in October. The second half of the season saw an upturn in league form with the club finishing in 10th position its highest finish for six years. Manager Ady Hall resigned at the end of the season due to work commitments and former manager Nick Platnauer took on the role for the second time.

Season 2012/13 - The League campaign was a mixed affair, but the Eagles got their act together in the New Year and an 8 game unbeaten run saw the club come within touching distance of the play offs. Defeats at crucial times meant the Eagles finished in 10th position the same as the previous season. After the departure of Manager Nick Platnauer the club moved quickly to appoint Cranfield United Manager and former Eagles player Lee Bearman, with a directive to find good local talent rather than searching further afield for players. Following a disappointing run of twenty games without a win, it was decided on Boxing Day 2013 to part company with Lee Bearman. On January 2<sup>nd</sup> 2014, former player Danny Nicholls was appointed manager with Alan Biley as his assistant. After 12 consecutive defeats manager Danny Nicholls and assistant Alan Biley resigned in March 2014. Wellingborough Manager Craig Adams was appointed 1<sup>st</sup> team manager and brought with him his assistant, Jamie Wright and Goalkeeping coach Brian Mapley. However, Adams could not prevent relegation to the Southern League Division One Central on March 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Season 2014/15 - Life under Craig Adams started inconsistently in Southern League Division One. A 5-3 win at Beaconsfield gave the club their first opening day win in 14 years before a disappointing September saw the Eagles drop down the table. The highlight of the autumn was the club's FA Trophy run, defeating Chipstead FC, Brightlingsea Regent, Chippenham Town before facing Weston-Super-Mare in the third qualifying round. After the turn of the New Year an inconsistent season took place with a phase of victories and defeats. At the climax of the season, Craig Adams

# BEDFORD TOWN FC HISTORY

committed himself to another season at the helm before resigning in mid May 2015. With a new management committee appointed, the search for a new manager commenced and on June 3<sup>rd</sup>, ex Barton Rovers manager Dan Kennoy was appointed.

Season 2015/16 – Having taken over in the Summer, Dan Kennoy assembled a reasonable squad throughout preseason and hopes were high. The Eagles started well with progression in the FA Cup and ten points from the first five league games. However, a poor September lead to Dan Kennoy and his management team resigning. The Management Committee acted quickly and appointed Jon Taylor to the role of manager, where he was joined by former Eagles player Paul Daniels. Taylor led the Eagles to a solid 14<sup>th</sup> position finish.

Season 2016/17 – After a hard working Summer, Taylor assembled a strong looking squad that started preseason well with victories against Stevenage FC and Peterborough United XIs. Former Dunstable Town manager Darren Croft joined as assistant manager and John Bell followed as physio. The league season started disappointingly with defeats against Farnborough, Royston, Northwood and exiting the FA Cup to AFC Dunstable. A strong league run continued through late September and October, but this did include a disappointing 4:0 loss at Hanwell Town in the FA Trophy. The club lost again at Hanwell Town in the league on 10<sup>th</sup> December, but then went on a 20 game unbeaten run. This finished in disappointing fashion at Marlow in early April but had propelled the Eagles up to a respectable eight place finish.

Season 2017/18 – After the departure of Darren Croft over the summer, coach Gil Octave was promoted to assistant manager. The season started with a disappointing defeat at Uxbridge but wins against Aylesbury United and Swaffham Town in the FA Cup meant the Eagles finished August on a high. The Eagles spent most of the autumn in midtable and Jon Taylor continued to add to his squad. At the start of 2018, former Histon coach and St Ives Assistant Manager Jack Cassidy was brought into the management team. At the end of January 2018, the club was taken over, ending 17 years of ownership under David Howell. Local businessmen David and Jon Taylor headed a consortium including Jason Brown, Ashley Jones, Doug Nurse and Alan Gudjin who took over tenure at the Eyrie. The Eagles went on a solid run from January, but were unable to reach the playoffs, falling short to finish in 8<sup>th</sup> place.

Season 2018/19 – After a summer of rebuilding on and off the pitch, the new ownership began to stamp down their vision for the Eagles to progress. A number of former league players were signed, and the Eagles started with three wins from three against Kidlington, Yaxley and Dereham (In the FA Cup). A strong FA Cup run continued, defeating Bostik Premier side Enfield Town, before narrowly going out to AFC Telford away in late September. Cup football took priority in the autumn, as the Eagles went on an incredible run in the FA Trophy. They reached the first round, travelling all the way from the extra preliminary round to get there. The journey involved five ties, three replays, knocking out two Bostik Premier League sides on the way with Cheshunt, Tilbury, Kingstonian, Chipstead and Worthing all falling to town as their March to the first round proper of the trophy continued. Due to the large amount of cup football, the Eagles had only played 10 league fixtures by 1<sup>st</sup> December, and they sat in eighth place at this point, albeit with a number of games in hand over the playoff sitting sides. The fine FA Trophy form continued when on 15<sup>th</sup> December, the Eagles came back from 2:1 and 3:2 behind to earn a draw at National League side Aldershot Town. The following Tuesday the Shots travelled up from Hampshire with a much depleted squad, consisting of youth players. The Eagles ran riot, knocking seven past them to set up a trip to Chesterfield in the second round proper. Unfortunately, the trophy proved a distraction to the league form, as Bedford struggled to pick up points in the new year, especially on the road. Nonetheless, on 12<sup>th</sup> January the Eagles visited Chesterfield and after an excellent effort went down 1:0 to the National League side in the 89<sup>th</sup> minute. A reasonable spring saw the Eagles finish in fourth place and qualify for the playoffs, going down 5:3 to Corby Town in the semi-final. A game which was overshadowed by the Eagles knowing they could not be promoted due to a poor points per game ratio.

Season 2019/20 – The new season started with strong hope after an excellent preseason campaign. The opening day saw a hard fort 2-1 win at home to Thame United. However, in the following week, disappointment hit with a hammering defeat at Berkhamsted and exiting the FA Cup to Deeping Rangers at the Eyrie. Throughout September and October the side picked themselves up, going unbeaten and progressing in the FA Trophy and Southern league Cup. In mid-October, the club were knocked out of the League Cup at Biggleswade Town, before losing at Carlton Town in the FA Trophy. Sadness followed on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2019, when owner and director David Taylor passed away at the club. Manager Jon Taylor was promoted to director, and Nathan Abbey took on full responsibility of the management of players at the club. Nathan won his first game in charge, officially, with the 2:1 win at Kempston Rovers.

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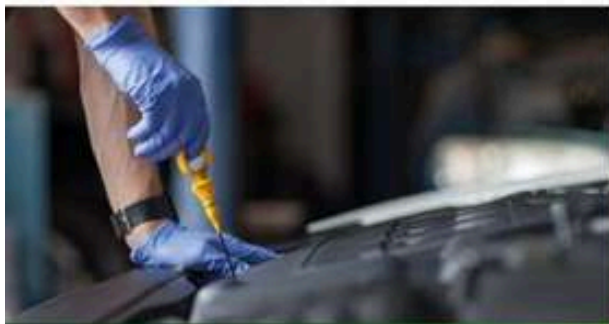
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IF YOU'RE reading this, then it's good news – you're reading a football programme, an increasingly endangered species.

Like many things post-covid and in this 'new normal' there are lots of things different at our Non-League grounds now.

The National League have given their clubs the option of not running programmes this year and we've seen similar in the EFL.

In this digital world an increasing number of clubs are looking at those avenues rather than the printed page. Everyone will have their views on this traditional aspect of football match going.

But here we are, in a programme, talking about competitive Non-League football. Hopefully that is as good to read as it is good to write.

For many months now we've not had much competitive football to write about in The NLP. Yes, we had some play-off games, but the return this month of competitive football starting with the FA Cup has been most welcome.

Of course, everything around the game is different. We're all getting used to the added things we have to do. Book a ticket online beforehand, fill out a test and trace form, sanitise our hands as we enter the ground, follow one-way systems.

It's very different to what we left in March when the 2019-20 season stopped in its tracks. Players are turning up in kit, staying out at half-time for team talks – the current weather helps – and sitting apart on the bench.

But, when the whistle goes, it's back to the football we've all missed so much.

Crowds being allowed back in stadiums was a massive breakthrough. Hopefully Steps 2 and above will soon follow because all clubs need that money coming through the gate.

From a reporters point of view, we've never covered such a fluid situation. Things changed literally by the hour. Sometimes even within ten minutes of being told one thing, another call would come through saying it was now something else. It's been a challenge!

Without crowds it would have been impossible to start the season. Then the fears for clubs as soon as the pandemic broke out would have been multiplied.

I remember one week, way back in the summer, being told four different opinions on the start date for 2020-21. One said September/October, another ventured November, someone else thought January and another, informed person, feared not at all!

Thankfully the first person's guess was correct but we all are aware it's a fine line with cases on the rise again.

Already we're getting used to clubs withdrawing from the FA Cup at the last minute because of positive tests and there will no doubt be late cancellations of games throughout the season.

We can all play our part. Help clubs stick to the crucial social distancing rules that need to be adhered to. Fill out test and trace forms and throw a couple of extra quid into the coffers.

Every little helps. Including buying this programme.

Enjoy your football!





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# FIXTURES

Saturday 19 September 2020

Barton Rovers	V	Coleshill Town
Berkhamsted	V	North Leigh
Biggleswade	V	AFC Dunstable
Corby Town	V	Aylesbury United
Daventry Town	V	Kidlington
Didcot Town	V	Kempston Rovers
Halesowen Town	V	Yaxley
St Neots Town	V	Bedworth United
Thame United	V	Bedford Town
Wantage Town	V	Welwyn Garden City

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# THAME UNITED FOOTBALL CLUB

**Founded 1883**

Chairman– Jake Collinge  
Vice-Chairman – John Tuddenham  
Secretary – Jake Collinge  
Programme Editor – Jake Collinge and Carl Catling  
Match Reporter – Carl Catling  
Marketing, Media and Sponsorship Manager – Carl Catling

Committee Members – Jake Collinge, John Tuddenham, Carl Catling  
Mark West, Mark Hurley, Stuart Blaik, Martyn Shaw, Ruth Tuddenham

Thame United Manager – Mark West  
Thame United Assistant Manager – Stuart Blaik  
Thame United Coach - Ben Johnson  
Thame United Team Support Manager – John Tuddenham  
Thame United Photographer – Marc Addison

Club Chaplain – Fr David Hartley

## **Honours**

FA Vase Semi-Finalists -1998/99  
FA Cup Fourth Qualifying Round – 2003/4 and 2004/5  
Oxfordshire Senior Cup Winners:  
1906, 1909, 1910, 1976, 1981, 1993, 2001, 2002  
Oxfordshire Intermediate Cup Winners:  
1977, 1979, 1992, 1996, 2000, 2003, 2014  
Hellenic League Champions – 1961/62 and 1969/70  
Hellenic League Division 1 East Champions – 2009/10  
South Midlands Premier Division Champions – 1990/91  
Ryman League Division 2 Champions – 1994/95  
Hellenic League Reserve Division 2 East Champions – 2009/10  
Hellenic League Premier Division Champions 2016/17

## **THE STADIUM, MEADOW VIEW PARK**

Welcome to the ASM Stadium the home of Thame United FC

There are a number of rules and guidelines when you are attending the ASM Stadium that should be followed:

No alcoholic drink is to be consumed and no glass bottles are allowed in the Stadium Area;  
We support the FA RESPECT programme and any inappropriate or offensive language directed at any match official or other spectator will not be tolerated;

Please observe the 'no standing' and 'stand behind the yellow line' signs to ensure views from the stands are not obscured;

Do not stand behind the season ticket holder seats, located on the right hand side of the back row of stand seats; Please dispose of litter in the litter bins provided; and

Above all else, please treat the facility as though it were your own so that we can ensure it is maintained to an appropriate standard.

Please respect these 'rules' for your own enjoyment and that of others.

We also welcome your comments, queries and suggestions regarding the facilities at Meadow View Park and would appreciate it if these could either be submitted via email to [admin@thamefootball.co.uk](mailto:admin@thamefootball.co.uk), or please speak with any Club Official on Match Days.

**Thame Football Partnership (Thame United FC and Thame Boys, Youth and Girls FC) Ltd**

League Rule 2.13

Ownership: In accordance with the Football Association Rule 2.13 Publication of ownership in relation to Step 1 to Step 6 Clubs within the Football pyramid, we hereby confirm that the Legal Status of THAME FOOTBALL PARTNERSHIP (Thame United FC and Thame Boys, Youth and Girls FC) Ltd identified by Company Number 07119444, takes the 'Form' of a Company Limited by Guarantee and Not Having a Share Capital (incorporated 07 January 2010).

For the purposes of publication of ownership, we can confirm that the following named person(s) are listed as Directors of the company (incorporated personnel):

Mr Neal Charles Garnett  
Mr Richard James Carr  
Mr John Tuddenham  
Mr Leslie Richard Knock  
Mr Jake Seth Collinge  
Mr Robert Derrick Woodcock  
Mrs Ruth Anne Tuddenham

In addition to the Directors listed above, the following named personnel have active roles within the club:

Jake Collinge – Chairman (Thame United FC)  
John Tuddenham – Vice-Chairman (Thame United FC)  
Carl Catling – Committee Member (Thame United FC)  
Ruth Tuddenham – Committee Member (Thame United FC)  
Mark Hurley – Committee Member (Thame United FC)  
Martyn Shaw – Committee Member (Thame United FC)  
Mark West - Committee Member (Thame United FC)  
Stuart Blaik - Committee Member (Thame United FC)

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