

BALDOCK TOWN FC

Match Programme



Mon 3rd Jan 2022 KO 3:00pm

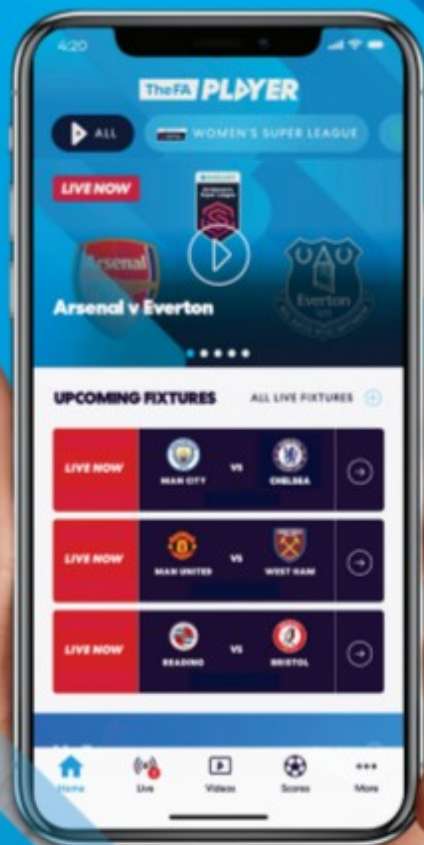
v Crawley Green

SSML Premier Division

2021/22 Season : Volume 14. Issue 15

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A WORD FROM THE MANAGER

Good afternoon and welcome to this match against Crawley Green FC.

Whilst our results may have been disappointing of late there is no doubt that the overall performances have been better than our League position shows. The lads are giving everything in matches and in training and we were very close to delivering on our form last week against Arlesey. We were definitely the better team that day.

I am very encouraged by the quality of the players that have come through the Youth system and this has been demonstrated very well recently by the lads who have come into the 1st Team squad from the Reserves. They have definitely added to the overall quality of the squad, none of them have looked out of place. The Club has been developing the Youth system for a few years now and we need to continue to do this and this is what is best for us.

In addition to this we have made some new signings and these lads have also had a positive impact and bring more strength and depth to the squad.

Rob Bates and Surge had already started to build a good squad of players and I fully intend to continue to build and want to start to move up this League and the start of a New Year is a great time to begin.

I want to press on with playing our football and I know that things will start to change.

I really appreciate your support and I hope that you enjoy the game today.

Dave McAdam

**Manager
Baldock Town FC**



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CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

Good afternoon and welcome to the New Lamb Meadow stadium for today's SSML Premier league fixture against Crawley Green FC. I would like to extend a warm welcome to the players, officials, and supporters of CGFC and hope they enjoy their brief time with us.

Last Monday we were here playing away to our landlords Arlesey Town FC in front of a bumper 225 spectators. It was nice to see so many Baldock fans at the game who certainly outnumbered the Arlesey contingent. The game itself was another one that got away as we outplayed Arlesey for long periods and created many chances to kill the game off. On reflection it was a point gained rather than two lost bearing in mind our respective positions in the league. It was especially pleasing to see successful debuts for our reserve team players Dean Laing and 17-year-old Adam Turner with the latter scoring our first goal.

Today's game is a must win for both teams given we occupy the two relegation places and whilst there is still a long way to go neither of us can get too far detached from the teams around us. Both us and Crawley Green were comfortably mid table when last season was curtailed so it comes as a surprise that we are both down at the bottom. I am hopeful the lads can put aside the magnitude of today's game and continue to play their football and get the result it deserves.

We as a club are committed to bringing our youth players through our system and giving them the chance to play as high as possible. Whilst this may not produce instant results, I am convinced this is the way forward for club sustainability and ultimately success on the pitch. Over the past two seasons we have seen many of our U18 EJA players make their debut with two moving to higher league clubs. This was only made possible by the hard work our EJA coaches have put in and I would like to thank them for their dedication to the club.

Our next game is here on Saturday 08th January against London Colney with further home games on the 22nd 26th and 29th January so please come along if possible.

Thank you for your continued support and enjoy the game.

Graham Kingham

**Chairman
Baldock Town FC**

TODAY'S VISITORS

CRAWLEY GREEN

Crawley Green Sports & Social Club was formed in November 1989 after arsonists caused the virtual destruction of the present building. Members of Stopsley Harriers, The Wyvern and Ramridge Rangers Sunday Football Clubs amalgamated to form the present club and were successful in securing a 99 year lease from the Council. The New Club house was formally open on 19th June, 1992 by then Luton Town manager, David Pleat.

The badge incorporates all the elements of the three founding clubs but also local history. The club badge was adopted in 1996 after many years of discussion. Maroon was the colour of the largest single club Ramridge Rangers and it was adopted as the club colour. It is incorporated in the Club badge as the bar across the middle. Stopsley Harriers were well known for their red and blue quarters, whilst Wyvern Members were predominantly blue since their foundation. Both these colours are reflected in the badge. Crawley Green FC Saturday side was formed in 1993 after another local team, Somerset Tavern came under the Crawley Green umbrella. The club colour of maroon was adopted by the team.

In 2018 Luton Town FC and Crawley Green FC further enhanced their club partnership with the announcement that Crawley Green FC will play their home games at The Brache training ground from season 2018-2019. Crawley Green, who are the only Luton based team to play at step 5 or above of the National League System, have been trying since 2008 to get permission to build a suitable stadium. Unfortunately in that time they have failed to receive the support needed from Luton Borough Council, despite there being no cost involved for the Council. This decision has meant that they have had to ground share with Barton Rovers FC for 11 years now, to enable the team to continue to play at that level.

This is a poor indictment of the Council's attitude to football in Luton, considering that other major towns in Bedfordshire have at least one team each playing step 6 or above. Their lack of support in comparison to the likes of Biggleswade (3 teams), Bedford (2 teams), Dunstable (2 teams), Leighton Buzzard (1 team) and Kempston (1 team), means that even our local leagues have the ignominy of having to travel to local villages to host their cup finals.

Luton recently installed a brand new all-weather surface down at the training ground and to comply with national ground grading criteria Crawley Green will complete the remaining requirements. This will include new changing rooms, dugouts, turnstile and spectator standing area. Tony Talbot, Chairman of Crawley Green stated: "We would like to thank Gary Sweet and Kevan Platt and everyone at Luton Town FC for firstly affording us this opportunity and then their support in making this happen.

"In the past we have seen a number of ex-Crawley Green players go on to play for Luton, but our partnership has really continued to grow in recent years. It's with great satisfaction for us that we are currently seeing James Justin starring for the first team. In addition the recently transferred Tyreeq Bakinson and four of the current U18s team, Josh Neufville, Joe Mead, Ciaren Jones and Michael Shamalo all came through our youth system.

TODAY'S VISITORS

CRAWLEY GREEN (Continued)

"A town the size of Luton needs a successful professional club, as well as teams playing in the national league pyramid". This gives our talented youngsters a pathway to development, without having to go outside the borough to develop. "In addition, underneath these clubs is a large community hub, which affords lots of youngsters the opportunity to play football. These community hubs ensure all young people have the opportunity to participate in football in a safe supportive environment, which preserves the dignity and respect of the individual regardless of age, gender, sexual orientation, ethnic origin, religion, disability, income and any other social deprivation. With Government statistics showing a concerning rise in childhood obesity throughout the UK, these community hubs encourage our children to stay active and engage in physical activity. This all helps promote health, self-confidence and importantly social cohesion, and hopefully leads to the wider benefits in raising standards."

Hatters chief executive Gary Sweet said: "We see ourselves as guardians of elite football in our region and part of that responsibility is to help – wherever possible – other local, aspirational clubs develop and thrive, staying at the core of their roots. "The challenges faced at Crawley Green were difficult and, with the great relationship we've had over the years, having recruited numerous young players from their excellent development structure, we're proud to help Crawley Green retain a local home for their competitive games, just as we are happy to utilise our existing training facility at perhaps the only time when it won't get used."

In recognition of his services to the community and sport, Crawley Green Sports & Social Club Chairman, Tony Talbot was awarded a BEM – British Empire Medal - in the 2018 New Year's Honours List



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MATCH REPORT

Arlesey Town FC 2 v Baldock Town FC 2

This was a local derby with a difference in given that this ground is home to both Clubs but hopes were high for a Baldock Town win.

Baldock fielded a slightly different side with a new partnership in the centre of defence with Furness moving out to left wing back.

Baldock had the first attempt on goal with Furness making ground on the left to cutback to Aldridge who's shot was deflected wide. Unfortunately Baldock lost a soft goal in 8 mins when a mistake by the Baldock Keeper, Skinner, allowed Arlesey a very soft goal. Undeterred by this Baldock took charge and pressed on the Arlesey goal with Furness having the best of the chances after 20 mins when he met a Rome corner, unchallenged, and headed over from close range. In 37 mins Laing had a long punt from out wide on the right which had the Keeper worried but it went past the far post. A few mins later on the other side Furness made his way into the box and battled to keep the ball, this allowed Baldock to get players in the box to the back post awaiting the cross. A clearance was made out to Turner who picked it up 30 yards out on the left and then sent in the desired cross to the back post but the Keeper, who was more worried about the Baldock players gathered there forgot to intercept it and it went straight in. No doubt Turner will argue that he saw the Keeper off his line and skilfully put it over his head but who cares - a goal is a goal and very special to get one on your first team debut.

There was really only one team in it at this point and just a couple of mins after that one we got a candidate for the goal of the season. White picked up the ball close to half way and took the Arlesey defence by surprise by taking the ball at top speed straight towards the Arlesey box. At the edge of the box he played a short pass to Hayes who blasted it high into the far top corner of the goal from the corner of the box. Great goal.

Baldock 2-1 up at half time, although a bit biased I thought it should have been at least 3-1.

Arlesey came a bit more into the game in the second half but Baldock were holding out OK. With Coppin back in midfield and battling in front of the defensive line we were looking good. In 55 mins Baldock were back in attack mode with a Rome header saved followed by a Coppin shot going narrowly past the left hand post. A couple of mins later Aldridge took a high ball from Hay on his chest and and got a shot off which was saved by the Keeper. Furness then battled into the box from the left, again, throwing the Arlesey defence into a bit of a panic but that move was given offside. In 75 mins Aldridge and White broke forward and found Hay inside the box who turned and shot but the Keeper saved with his foot. Baldock continued in attack mode with a Rome shot from the edge of the box which the Keeper saved although a bit unsighted. Arlesey managed their first shot on goal of the second half in 72 mins but Skinner saved a good low shot on difficult ground.

Baldock then lost another soft goal when the Arlesey player had a tap in at the back post, following a low cross. It could have been offside.

Baldock have always battled this season and have an immense work rate and they continued to push right to the end but they will be rueing not being able to convert more of the many chances that they had. It should have been a win.

I liked the look of Mitchell who looks to be well experienced, but may be playing out of position in the centre of defence. The very tall Turner on a call up from the Reserves also looked confident and even got a goal. This Baldock team should be much higher up this League than they are, we just need a bit more luck and we will pull well clear of the bottom of the table. This was a good game and well worth watching.

Team; Skinner, Laing, Furness, Turner, Mitchell, Coppin, Gaffney, White, Hay, Rome, Aldridge.
Subs; Downes, Trott, Joy, Harpur.

Report by J.Graham, BTFC Fan. Any views expressed are my own and inaccuracies my fault.

DREAM TEAM

The following people have worked tirelessly to bring you this match and many have been doing so for quite a few years – we hope you enjoy and appreciate the work done so far –
come on ye Reds

President: Steve West

Chairman: Graham Kingham

Vice Chairman: Barry Kingham

Secretary: Nick Carr

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Photographer: John Graham

Press Officer: Nick Carr

Players Representative: Josh Furness

Lottery Co-Ordinator: Steve West

Adult and Youth Co-Ordinator: Dave McAdam

Team Management:

1st Team Manager: Dave McAdam

1st Team Assistant Mangers: John Dalli

Sports Therapist: Amy Kibler

Reserve team Manager: Ryan Haggar

Reserve Assistant Manager: Tony Mara

Reserve Team Secretary: Nicola Haggar

EJA YOUTH TEAMS

Baldock Town currently has four teams competing in the Eastern Junior Alliance (EJA) at U13, U14, U15 and U18, and we hope to increase this number next season with teams competing at all age groups from U13 through to U18.

The EJA is the South East of England's leading youth development league and is the highest level of youth football outside professional football's academy system. It provides our players with the opportunity to play competitive football against some of the best youth footballing talent across London and the Eastern Home Counties.

This season marks the club's second in the EJA and we are looking to build on the successes of our first season, when our U16s won the league and our U14s won the Midweek Cup, beating a strong Billericay Town in the final at Harlow FC's Stadium.

Our U18 EJA squad represents Baldock Town in the Emirates FA Youth Cup and this season, the squad which includes nine 16-year-olds and three 15-year-olds, gained a well-deserved victory in the competition, away to a very strong and more experienced Royston Town side (step 3) in front of a large crowd, with our supporters arguably outnumbering the home support (we were certainly noisier!).

Whilst we are extremely proud of these successes, what gives us a greater sense of achievement and pride is the progress our players are making in their football development. Last season saw five of our U18 squad break into the first team, whilst this season so far, no less than 10 have played for the first team.

These successes have brought our club and the boys into the spotlight, with scouts and clubs from higher levels showing a keen interest in many of them and a number of boys have already progressed up the football pyramid following appearances for our first team. This is our ambition for the boys, we want them to play at the highest level that their footballing talent and potential will take them, whether that be for Baldock Town or even higher up the football pyramid. The most recent examples of this are 18-year-old Lewis Franklin who just two weeks ago secured a transfer to Welwyn Garden City (step 4) following a season in the first team, and 16-year-old Richard Kusorgbor who is currently trialling at League 2 Colchester United.

All our EJA matches are played on Sundays with home games at The Baldock Arena, whilst training is weekly on 3G at Knights Templar School Sports Centre (KTS) and The Baldock Arena

Information on training and forthcoming fixtures is detailed below. For more information on our EJA teams or to register an interest in joining us then contact Nick on 07507 445099 or email baldocktowneja@gmail.com.

EJA YOUTH TEAMS

EJA Training:

Age group	Day	Time	Venue
U18 (U16 to U18)	Wednesday Friday	19:30 - 20:30 19:30 - 21:00	KTS The Baldock Arena
U15	Tuesday Wednesday	19:30 - 20:30 20:30 - 21:30	KTS The Baldock Arena
U14	Thursday	18:00 - 19:30	KTS
U13	Monday Thursday	17:30 - 18:30 19:30 - 20:30	KTS KTS

The EJA season restarts on Sunday, 9th January following the Christmas and New Year break. Forthcoming matches:

Team	Opponent	Competition	Kick-Off	Venue
U18	Tring Athletic	League	TBC	Tring Athletic FC
U15	Godmanchester Town	League	10:00	The Baldock Arena
U14	St. Margaretsbury	Herts FA County Cup	TBC	Away (TBC)
U13	Wingate & Finchley	League	12:00	The Baldock Arena

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TODAY'S SQUADS

BALDOCK TOWN FC

Oliver Skinner (GK)
Adam Harpur (GK)
Michael Adeyemi
Finlay Aldridge
Luis Brooker
Alex Coppin
Josh Furness (c)
Josh Downes
Lewis Franklin
Aeden Gaffney
Jacob Green
Ashley Hay
Lewis Matthews
Owen Robertson
Charlie Rome
Oliver Trott
Jude White
Dean Laing
Max Mitchell
Adam Turner

Manager; Dave McAdam
Asst; John Dall
Sports Therapist; Amy Kibler

CRAWLEY GREEN

Mitchell Howe
Daniel Blackman
Chris Crook
Luke Andrews
Marlon Burton
Sam Mould
Jordan Mongey
Kieran Floyd
Graham Clark
Kienan Malone
(c) Ben Collins
Tyler Fry
Joe Hankins
Aaron Hudson
Steven Redmond
James Lauder
Scott Collins
Patrick Tsmikala
James Hutchins

Manager; Paul Blackman
Asst; Matt Harding
Physio; Andras Sumegi

Officials

Ross Cole, Joanne Horwood, Aaron Lloyd

Next Home Matches

SSML - Sat 8th Jan 2021 v London Colney
SSML - Sat 22nd Jan 2022 v Harefield Utd

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