BALDOCK TOWN FC





BALDOCK TOWN FC v LEVERSTOCK GREEN FC THURS 18TH APR 2024, KO - 7:45 PM SSML PREMIER DIV SEASON 2023-2024 : VOL 16 ISS 20

Welcome

A very warm welcome to the Fans, Officials and Players of Leverstock Green to tonight's SSML match. This is our last home game of the season and our second last game of the season.

Leverstock Green have had a good season but are still well adrift of the top two who seem to be in a different class from everyone else. Baldock have had their challenges this season but are now safe for another season in the SSML Premier Division and can look forward to a fresh start next season. Hopefully we can put up a good show for our fans tonight.

This is my last programme and after quite a few years, I seem to have run out of gas and have struggled with doing it all season. In the past I have managed to produce match reports, take photographs and gather other content - none of that has been possible this season so it is time to give up.

I have attached some front sheets from random programmes through the years from matches that some of you may have been at. I have all of the programmes from the time that I have been involved if anyone is interested in them. The team sheets make good reading - lots of great players.

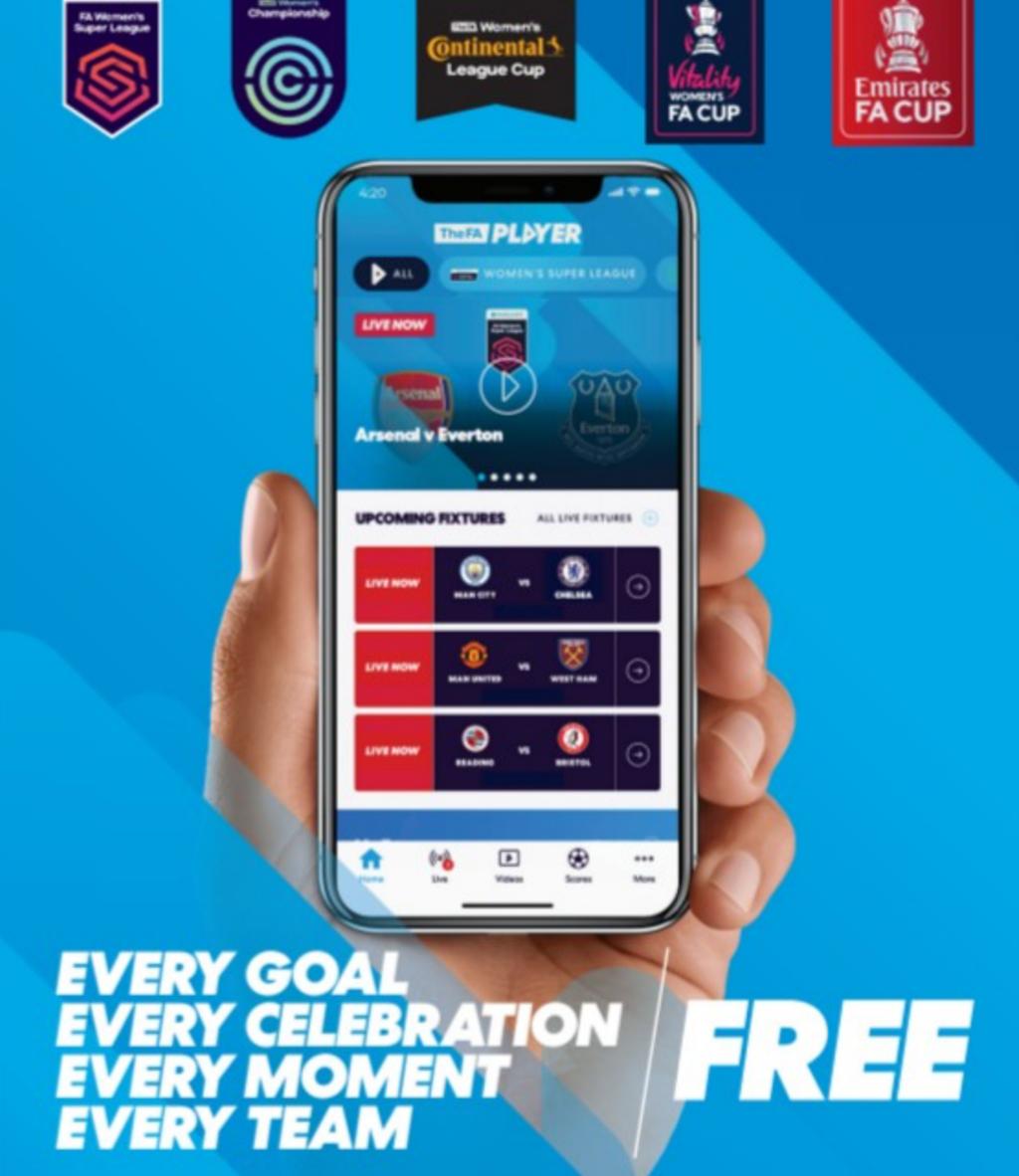
The most outstanding Manager that I ever worked with must be Steve King, it was never dull when he was around.

Baldock Town are the only club for me and hopefully I will get to see them a lot more next season than this one

Good luck for tonight

Come on ye Reds

John Graham



FOLLOW THE ACTION LIVE ON The FA PLOYER

www.faplayer.tv







LEVERSTOCK GREEN FC - A BRIEF HISTORY

Leverstock Green Football Club was formed around 1895. The first match reports appeared on January 4th 1896 in the Advertiser and gave an account of a match against Hemel Hempstead Rovers.

The first competitive fixtures were reported during season 1908/1909 when the Club competed in Division Three of the West Herts League. Other clubs competing in the league at that time were: Abbots Langley, Bovingdon, Boxmoor, Bushey Heath, Hagden Lane, Kings Langley and Potten End.

The Club ground in Pancake Lane originally formed part of the Gorhambury Estate, Lord Verulam making the ground available for the youth of the area and his estate workers to enjoy a game of ball. Clearly Lord Verulam was an early enthusiast, providing timber-built changing rooms, which have been progressively replaced since the 1960's by the existing brick built clubhouse and changing rooms.

On the death of the Lord, certain parcels of land, including that on which the Football Club stood, fell to the Crown in lieu of death duties and is administered on its behalf by the Commission for New Towns, who have remained the Club's landlords since that time, despite two unsuccessful attempts by the Club to buy the freehold.

The club remained members of the West Herts League until 1954 when it broadened its horizons and successfully applied to join the Herts County League.

By the mid 1970's the Club started to move forward with a new clubhouse, post & rail and the installation of training lights.

The playing side of the club also improved and in 1979 the club won Division One of the Herts County League and were promoted to the Premier Division the highest standard the Club had achieved in 80 years.

In 1991 the Club were accepted into the South Midlands League and had two highly successful seasons in the Premier Division before being forced to drop into the Senior Division, as floodlights were then not available. In 1996 the club finished in runners-up position and the following season were the divisional champions but could not be promoted because floodlights had still not received approval from the Council.

Premier Division status was eventually regained in 2003, and the club is now the longest-standing current member of the division. The club's highest finish in the Premier Division has been 4th, in season 2010/11, with top six finishes also being recorded in 2005/06, 2006/07 and 2008/09.

Season 2010/11 also saw the club's best ever run in the FA Vase, with wins over Welwyn Garden City, Enfield, Hullbridge Sports, Tunbridge Wells and Bemerton Heath Harlequins before defeat in the Fifth Round against Rye United. The club has twice reached the Third Round of the FA Vase, in seasons 2006/07 and 2018/19.

Leverstock Green entered the FA Cup for the first time in 2004, and the club's best performance has been reaching the Second Round Qualifying, which was achieved in 2014/15, where we were beaten by Staines Town, and in 2018/19 where we were beaten by Dorking Wanderers.

County honours were won in 2006/07 and 2010/11 as the Herts Charity Shield was lifted, and the club were beaten finalists in the Herts Charity Cup in 2011/12. After finishing runners-up four times over the previous 12 years, The West Herts FA St Mary's Cup was finally lifted for the first time in 2017/18 with victory over Berkhamsted in the final at Vauxhall Road.

Between 2005 and 2015 the club ran a successful Ladies' Team, which rose from the Beds and Herts League into the Eastern Region Womens League, reaching the Premier Division in 2013.

The under-18 side competes in the Southern Counties Floodlit Youth League. The team finished runners-up in their division in seasons 2010/11 and 2014/15, and in 2015/16 they reached the final of both the Brian Hitchings Cup and the Colwyn Cup, losing in both finals to Luton Town Cedars. Many players have made the step up from under-18 level to first team level, and those who have gone on to play much higher up the non-league pyramid include Charlie Gorman (Eastbourne Borough), Luke Warner-Eley (Royston Town, St Albans City) and Jonathan Lacey (Hemel Hempstead Town) who also represented the England non-league side in the Falklands while a Leverstock Green player.

LEVERSTOCK GREEN FC - A BRIEF HISTORY

The Pancake Lane ground has seen many improvements due to ever more stringent ground grading requirements. In 2007 the Peter Metcalfe changing rooms were built at a cost of £90,000. 2008 saw the refurbishment of the clubhouse to include new toilets and a new hospitality suite. In 2009 the concrete walkway was completed to cover three sides of the ground and a seated stand accommodating 113 spectators was installed.

Season 2018/19 was one of turmoil and sadness, as long-serving fixture secretary Graham Smart passed away suddenly only weeks after taking on the role of interim chairman. A season which promised so much at the start ended with the club only securing Premier Division safety on the final day.

Emma Smart took over as chairman for season 2019/20, and with a new management team and a new spirit of optimism the club was on course for a safe mid-table finish before the season was brought to a premature end by Covid-19. The management team of Matt Harding and Mick Vipond continued into the 2020/21 season, which again came to a premature end. For season 2021/22, a new management team of Fergus Moore, Scott McGleish and Paul Marks was appointed. Fergus and Scott continued through season 2022/23 and won their first silverware for the club with a 1-0 win over Tring Athletic in the final of the West Herts St Mary's Cup.

Fergus and Scott are joined by former Under-18 manager Ross Bargent for season 2023/24, and the club has also started a Development Team this season, which will be playing in the Herts Senior County League Premier Division.

Four club stalwarts have received awards from the Football Association and the Herts FA for 50 years service to football. The first was Jim Matthews, affectionately known as "Macca", who passed away at the age of 90 in 2006. The second was Bill Dawes in 2014, and the third was long-serving club secretary Brian Barter in 2019. Brian stood down from his role as secretary in 2020, having twice been honoured with awards from the Spartan South Midlands League. The fourth was Tony Smart, who now holds the roles of Vice-Chairman, Treasurer and Programme Editor.



Introducing our new ONLINE TECHNOLOGY shop, selling:

✓ Laptops ✓ Desktops ✓ i Pads ✓ TV's
✓ Servers ✓ Professional Displays

Call us on: 01245 474987 Email: sales@gradeatechnology.co.uk www.gradeatechnology.co.uk



BALDOCK TOWN FC

LEVERSTOCK GREEN FC

Abraham Ajiboye **David Archer** Malaki Black Jamie Breen **Kit Brown** Newman Carney **Ellis Coker George Devine** Mamadou Diallo Harry Dollimore Flavins Drescanu **Fraser Findlay Sonny Gardner George Kingham** Albert McGregor Archie O'Brien James O'Connor **Dominik Robertson Owen Robertson Marley Rochester Stein** Max Ryan **Harry Watson**

Josh Bowler Callum Neal Rio Beach Dan Weeks (c) **Josh Dooley Ryan Carruthers** Luke Beckwith **Dan Pett Guiseppe Delgaudio Nat Connolly Rawn Seale Mikey Havill-Tierney** Ademide Baruwa Paul Marks **Curtis Diblev** Radu-Mihai Stefanoaica Ethan Mooney **George Mitchell-Gears**

Mgr; Dave McAdam Asst; Matt Coker Sports Therapist; Amy Kibler

Mgr: Fergus Moore Asst: Scott McGleish Coaches: Ross Bargent, Aaron Eales, Darren Bonfield

Officials; Pavlos Anastasi, Oliver Keil, Ben Soll

Macron Store Hertfordshire

PRINT LAB

r₁9n

TEAMWEAR SPECIALISTS

Great value sports and workwear outlet based in Letchworth, Herts.

CONTACT US

Macron Store Hertfordshire, Unit 1, Arden Press Way, Letchworth, Herts, SG6 1LH.

Email: sales@macronstorehertfordshire.co.uk

/macronhertfordshire

@macronherts

WWWW MACRONSTORFHERTEORDSHIRE CO. UK

TEAMWEAR

TRAINING KITS

WORKWEAR

ACCESSORIES

SHOP ONLINE VIA THE WEBSITE