

# **BALDOCK TOWN FC**

## **Match Programme**

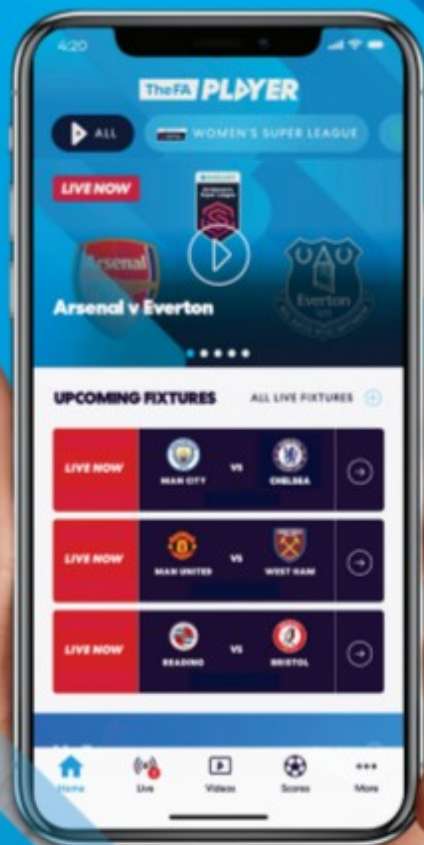


**Sat 11th Feb 2023 KO 3:00pm**

**v Biggleswade Utd**

**SSML Premier Division**

**2022/23 Season : Volume 15. Issue 15**



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# Welcome

Baldock Town offer a warm welcome to the players, officials, and supporters of Biggleswade Utd this afternoon and hope that they enjoy the game.

Biggleswade might well expect to be at the top of this division and if they win their games in hand then they will not be far away. Some people might see this as a local derby, which always adds a bit more to the match, but Biggleswade have lost most of their matches away so maybe that gives us a bit of a chance. It should be a good game and best of luck to both teams.

We have Stotfold, away, on Tuesday night which is actually a bit closer to home and hopefully some of you can make it along to that one.

Please read the serious special message about Fan Behaviour and Safety on the next page and please help support the message.

Thank you for your continued support and enjoy the game.

John Graham  
Programme Editor



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# Important Message

Every football fan should feel safe when watching their team. But last season we saw a minority of supporters ruining the game for others. That's why we're supporting strong measures across football to tackle antisocial and criminal behaviours within football grounds.

These include entering the pitch without permission, carrying or using smoke bombs or pyros and throwing objects onto the pitch, as well as discriminatory behaviour and taking drugs. All of these are illegal, dangerous and have no place in our game.

For everyone's safety, clubs will report anyone carrying out these offences to the police, which can result in a permanent criminal record. These measures could also now apply to the parents or guardians of children involved in these activities.

From the start of the 2022/23 season, anyone who enters the pitch and those carrying or using smoke bombs and pyros will now automatically be banned by their club.

These measures reflect the seriousness of the risks to fans and staff – pyros can burn at 2000 degrees Celsius and cause life-changing injuries, while entering the pitch endangers players, managers and match officials – it is impossible for anyone to tell the difference between a celebrating fan and a violent attacker.

The football authorities are working with clubs and the Football Supporters' Association to make sure everyone feels safe on matchdays. We ask all fans to come together to show that those who commit these illegal acts do not represent the majority of supporters.

Love Football. Protect the Game.

“

**EVERY FOOTBALL FAN  
SHOULD FEEL SAFE WHEN  
WATCHING THEIR TEAM.**

”



# YOUTH UPDATE

It's been a good few weeks since our last youth update and as a consequence, we have lots to tell you all.

Firstly, our U18s who play in the Southern Counties Floodlit Youth League, finally played a game of football, their first in over 3 months after suffering postponement after postponement due to waterlogged and frozen pitches across the 3 months!

Their last game before the weather hit was a 1 – 0 home win over close neighbours Stotfold on 26th October, with centre back Tom Perry netting the winner. Our next game was against Stotfold again, this time at New Roker Park on 2nd February which ended in a 0 – 0 draw. We followed this up on Wednesday night with a 3 – 1 win over a battling Milton Keynes Irish U18, with Luke Baranowski, Marcus Wilson and Jack Rosenwink all getting on the scoresheet to put the boys top of the league. We also had two 'goals' chalked off late in the game for offside when Jack Rosenwink first, and then Joe Dalli both scored when running on to perfectly timed through balls that split the MK Irish defensive line, and then beating the goalkeeper in a one-on-one. However, the linesman (can you call them that nowadays?) raised his flag on both occasions and the referee ruled them out. VEO highlights (poor man's VAR) confirmed that both goals should have been given as both players were well onside when put through!

Their next game is a tough away fixture at Buckingham Athletic on Thursday, 16th February, 19:45 kick.

In the Eastern Junior Alliance (EJA) we can report progress in the Hertfordshire County Cups for two of our teams. Our U15s have made it into the semi-final where they will face Ware Academy U15 EJA, following wins away at Cheshunt Youth EJA with Harley Johnson Standley bagging both goals, and then a quarter final win at home against Chorleywood Common Youth with Fraser Findlay and Daniel Kemp both on the scoresheet and George Kingham grabbing the winner in the last 30 seconds of the tie to avoid the lottery of penalties.

Our U16s made it into the quarter final at their age group with a win on penalties after a 1-1 draw away at Hertford Town, Callum Chauhan netting our goal before scoring one of our four penalties along with Jack Beasley, Luke Baranowski and Audley Bennett. That was enough as our opponents hit the post and had another penalty saved by Jacob Paulus who had an outstanding game between the sticks.

At the same time, our U13s and U14s have both been on league duty with the U13s going down 4 - 0 at London Lions before suffering a heavy 9 – 2 defeat at LGCE U13s with Jack Coles scoring both our goals. For their part, our U14s recorded two wins. The first was a 3 - 2 win at Edgware & Kingsbury with goals coming from Joe Driscoll and a brace from Oliver Greig. They followed this up with a 2 – 1 win over Letchworth Garden City with Joe Driscoll on the scoresheet again with Jordan Fridkin grabbing the other.

The following teams are in action this Sunday:

- U13s v Welwyn Garden City Development @ North Herts Arena, SG7 5AU - kick off at 10:00
- Wingate & Finchley Youth EJA v U14s @ The Football Pad, EN5 2DN, kick off - 10:30

Get along and support them if you can.





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# BIGGLESWADE UNITED

Biggleswade United Football Club was re-formed on the 16th July 1959. However, local history records indicate that there was a Biggleswade United side playing at Second Meadow as early as 1929. Our first season (1959/60) saw us competing in Division Three of the North Herts. League (NHL). After 10 successful years in the NHL the club made the step up to South Midlands League (SML) football. But towards the end of a 15-year association with the SML the club began to struggle and after three years of finishing in the bottom three of Division One we sought fresh fields. The club joined the Herts. Senior but club continued to find the going tough. In 1986 we elected to return to local League football, joining the Bedford and District Football League and began to build again.

The appointment of Brian Swords as first team manager in 87/88 proved to be the turning point in the club's fortunes. During the next ten years the club achieved a tremendous amount of success on and off the football pitch. Our record of League and Cup honours speak for themselves but aligned to this a great deal of work went on behind the scenes to match the on-field success. The club now boasts one of the best clubhouse and ground facilities in the Mid-Bedfordshire area. The success of the club has also attracted many new players as well as commanding a great deal of loyalty from those players who helped the club progress from Division Three of the Bedford and District League to County Senior Club status in just 15 years. The 1995/96 season was the most successful in the club's history - winning five major honours; the Beds Intermediate County Cup, Bedford and District League Championship, League Cup Championship and as the League's representatives the club won the Beds. FA Centenary Cup. Having won every major Bedford League honour the club felt it was time to move on and made the decision to make the step up once again and returned to Division One of the SML. In an exceptionally successful first season we celebrated a Division One "double" by winning the Championship and the Division One Cup. We also retained the Beds. FA Intermediate County Cup, only the second club in the competition's history to achieve this feat. To crown our success the club were awarded the SML Special Achievement Trophy in July 1997.

In the season 1997/98 we finally achieved Senior status. This was achieved not only through the endeavours of the players on the field but ultimately as a result of an extremely hard working committee. With the help of the Biggleswade Town Council a new stand was erected and perimeter fencing installed. And two seasons later the club erected floodlights and on the evening of 26th October 1999 we played our first-ever floodlit game at Second Meadow, Ryman League side Leighton Town were the visitors in the Bedfordshire Premier Cup. The next eleven years saw the first team led by Steve "Snowy" Wright and under his management the club continued to enjoy a very high level of League and Cup success ultimately achieving promotion to the Molten Spartan South Midlands League Premier Division and with it the opportunity to compete in the FA Cup. And under Snowy the club made three Beds FA Senior Challenge Cup final appearances, winning two of the three with victories over Stotfold (4-1) and Leighton Town (1-0) but missed out in 2006/07 going down 2-0 to Dunstable Town. Snowy's other cup successes came in the form of the Hunts Premeir Cup, North Beds Charity Cup, Hinchingsbrooke Cup, the SML Division One Cup and the SML Special Achievement Award once again. The end of the 2006 2007 saw Snowy step down as manager with his assistant, Nick Burton taking over the first team reins. January 5th 2009 saw the club embark on further ambitious ground improvements. With financial backing from Biggleswade Town Council, Mid Beds District Council and the Football Foundation we installed a 260-seater stand, fully enclosed the ground with a double turnstile entrance and players' secure walkway which raised the ground to Grade E status.

After several years of stability in terms of first team managers the next six years saw a regular turnover of first team and reserve team managers with Nick Burton, Dave Elkin and Phil Childs all taking over the first team reins for a time.



# BIGGLESWADE UNITED

At the start of the 2013/2014 season we appointed Mick Reardon and Mark Royal as first team managers both of whom had enjoyed success as coaches at the higher levels of football. Their disciplined approach was quickly adhered to and responded to by the players and under their stewardship we achieved the highest Premier Division position in nine years and first silverware in seven years winning the North Beds Charity Cup for the first time in the club's history.

In November 2014 the club took a further positive step to realise our ambitions with the appointment of Sky Sports Presenter and renowned author, Guillem Balague as Biggleswade United's Director of Football. Following Mick and Mark's decision to step down at the end 2014/2015, Guillem was quick to act and recruited a new Head Coach in Cristian Colas Beccera. Cristian was assisted by former professional player, Stuart Bimson, and under their guidance the team finished in eighth spot in the Premier Division in 2017/2018 - the highest position in the club's history. Having built a strong reputation for their outstanding coaching ability and playing philosophy Cristian and Stuart moved up to Step 3 level club, Staines Town, for the start of the 2018/2019 season. Guillem was again in search for a high quality coach and Jimmy Martin came highly recommended by his predecessor, Colas, who worked with Jimmy at Stevenage FC Academy. Jimmy was appointed Manager in May 2018 but he tendered his resignation in October 2018 having been offered a "hard to refuse" opportunity to take up a coaching role at Premier Division club Watford. Despite the setback the first team went on to record their highest ever League placing – a fourth spot in the Premier Division.

In the season 2019/2020 the club were sitting in a highly commendable third position in the Premier Division and under the management of Chris Devane and Trishnan Patel were hoping for a promotion play off opportunity. However, in March 2020 the season was declared Null and Void by the FA after the devastating outbreak of the Coronavirus. The club were also to learn that Chris and Trishnan had accepted the offer to work at Step 4 and departed the club at short notice. Fortunately the club were able to call upon the services of former Head Coach Cristian Colas. Cristian took the club to its highest ever position in the club's history at the curtailment of the 2020/21 season leaving us second in the table on PPG. The club applied for promotion to Step 4 but were unsuccessful. A double whammy came when the club were subjected to a lateral move to the UHlsport United Counties League. The FA's actions had a devastating effect on the club and we spent most of the 2021/22 season at the foot of the table. But we rallied and secured Step 5 football on the final day of the season. The club have now been re-instated in to the SML and with a strong squad will be looking to put last season's nightmare in to a distant memory and push on to return as a top of the table club.

The club has certainly come a long way in relatively few years but we could not have done it without the help of a very supportive Town and District Council who clearly understand the benefits of having a community based club in Biggleswade. Our success is also very much down to a very hard working committee who throughout the year - not just the football season - continue to volunteer their time and commitment to the club, to help it continue to thrive and be a source of enjoyment for our supporters and the Biggleswade community.

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# TODAY'S SQUADS

## BALDOCK TOWN FC

David Archer (GK)  
Gurjosh Dhesi (GK)  
Joe Abe  
Lawrence Ajong  
Robbie Buchanan  
Joe Dalli  
Zack Decker  
Mamadou Diallo  
Jamie Essam  
Josh Furness (C)  
Charlie Joy  
Callum Kane  
Chad King  
Dean Laing  
Ryan Lamond  
Tommy Reynolds  
Dominick Robertson  
Owen Robertson  
Luke Rowlands  
Dylan Switters  
Adam Turner  
Christopher Uchenna  
Jude White

Mgr; Dave McAdam  
Asst; John Dalli  
Coach; Danny Hutchins  
Sports Therapist; Amy Kibler

## BIGGLESWADE UTD

Ollie Leslie (GK)  
Milo Keane  
Cameron Hyde  
Conor Inskip  
Cade Stephens-Abbey  
Jordan Jarrold  
Jordan Wright  
Raheem Jabbar  
Gareth Hunt ©  
Taylor Rhiney  
Jaiden Irish  
Markel Cousins  
Yemi Adelani  
Kye Andrews  
Josh Sturniolo  
Jaheem Flemmings  
Jesus Mendoza  
Luke Starnes  
Tom Wyant (GK)

Mgr; Cristian Colas  
Coach: Del Digweed  
Coach: Dan Watkins  
GK Coach: Josh Thomas  
Physio; Lily Hyde

## Officials

Tom Cartwright, Carl Jones, Russell Shacklock

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