

# BALDOCK TOWN FC



**LOVE FOOTBALL  
PROTECT THE GAME**

## **MATCH PROGRAMME**

**BALDOCK TOWN FC v BIGGLESWADE UNITED FC**  
**Sat 28th Oct 2023 - KO 3pm**

**SSML Premier Division**  
**2023-2024 Season : Volume 16 Iss 8**

## BIGGLESWADE UTD FC - A BRIEF HISTORY

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 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 Premier Cup, North Beds Charity Cup, Hinchbrook 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 UTD FC - A BRIEF HISTORY

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 Tishnan 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 20/21 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 2022 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 that season's nightmare in to a distant memory and push on to return as a top of the table club.

With the nightmare season confined to the history books we kicked on and finished a very creditable 8th in the Premier Division but the highlight of the season was achieving the best ever run in the FA Vase. Starting at the qualifying round stages we came through five rounds reaching the fourth round proper but fell to Coventry Sphinx. At the end of a great season Cristian Colas made the difficult decision to step down after 7 (-2) seasons as head coach. Two United players came forward with the right experience, credentials and knowledge of the football world at this level and the next and the decision was felt to be the right one. Gareth Hunt, who had captained the side and had been instrumental in helping us through the difficult season, will be partnered with Jordan Wright who captained the FA Vase winning Newport Pagnell Town team. Highly respected by their peers we are confident that Gaz and Jordan will see us enjoy further success in the years to come.

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.



















# HOW ARE WE DOING

POS	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	St Panteleimon	15	10	3	2	35	16	19	33
2	Real Bedford	11	9	1	1	39	8	31	28
3	Milton Keynes Irish	11	9	1	1	38	7	31	28
4	Leverstock Green	14	9	1	4	33	25	8	28
5	FC Romania	14	7	3	4	38	21	17	24
6	Biggleswade United	15	7	3	5	37	34	3	24
7	Baldock Town	15	7	1	7	36	37	-1	22
8	Dunstable Town	13	5	3	5	24	24	0	18
9	Tring Athletic	14	5	3	6	22	28	-6	18
10	Harpenden Town	11	5	2	4	24	21	3	17

Type	Date / Time		Home Team		Away Team	
PREM	24/10/23	19:45	Sawbridgeworth Town		1 - 2	 Baldock Town
PREM	17/10/23	19:45	Baldock Town		7 - 2	 Shefford Town & Campton
PREM	14/10/23	15:00	St Panteleimon		3 - 1	 Baldock Town
PREM	07/10/23	15:00	London Lions		2 - 3	 Baldock Town
PREM	30/09/23	15:00	Leverstock Green		5 - 1	 Baldock Town

Type	Date / Time		Home Team			Away Team			Venue
PREM	28/10/23	15:00	Baldock Town		VS		Biggleswade United		New Lamb Meadow
PREM	31/10/23	19:45	Baldock Town		VS		Aylesbury Vale Dynamos		New Lamb Meadow
PREM	04/11/23	15:00	Baldock Town		VS		Potton United		New Lamb Meadow
GCT	11/11/23	15:00	Baldock Town		VS		Totternhoe		New Lamb Meadow

## Recent Form

Overall									
Pos	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Form	
8	London Lions	6	3	0	3	14	15		
9	Potton United	6	3	0	3	11	13		
10	Crawley Green	6	3	0	3	10	12		
11	Baldock Town	6	3	0	3	15	19		
12	FC Romania	6	2	2	2	17	11		
13	Dunstable Town	6	2	2	2	11	9		
14	Cockfosters	6	2	2	2	13	13		
15	Biggleswade United	6	2	0	4	9	16		
16	Stansted	6	1	1	4	9	13		



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## BALDOCK TOWN FC

Joshua Mollison (GK)  
Kit Brown  
Newman Carney  
Alfie Cooper  
Harry Dollimore  
Flavius Drescanu  
Josh Furness (Capt)  
Charlie Joy  
Dean Laing  
Archie O'Brien  
David Parkinson  
Dominik Robertson  
Owen Robertson  
Luke Rowland  
Nikolay Rusev  
Jamie Snapes  
Troy Tizard-Cleghorn  
Jude White

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

## BIGGLESWADE UTD FC

Tom Wyant  
Anthony Leslie  
Joe Babbage  
Tom Roberts  
Ethan Flanagan  
(Capt) Jaiden Irish  
Jesus Mendoza  
Gareth Hunt  
Coree Wilson  
Mekhi Angol  
Dave Parkinson  
Jake Stronge  
Sam Moore  
Jack Sherwood  
Aaron Dada  
Jordan Jarrold  
Jesus Mendoza  
Milo Keane  
Markel Cousins  
Ollie Leslie (GK)  
Caleb Chandler (GK)

Head Coaches: Jordan Wright  
and Gareth Hunt  
Asst: Del Digweed and Martin  
Russell  
GK Coach: Josh Thomas  
Physio: Lily Hyde

Officials; Chris Howes, Luke Addis, Peter Parkins



PROFESSIONAL GAME  
MATCH OFFICIALS



## **LOVE FOOTBALL. PROTECT THE GAME.**

### **Managers, Coaches and Technical Area Occupants**

#### ***Pre-match briefing***

- Manager / Head Coach is expected to attend and participate in pre-match briefings

#### ***Conduct in the Technical Area***

All occupants:

- Must behave in a responsible manner
- Compliance with the maximum number of staff and substitutes allowed by the competition
- Players and team officials not listed on the team sheet must not enter the technical area
- Must not use technology to challenge any decision made by the match officials
- Must remain within your own technical area during the match
- Must not enter the pitch to confront any match official at half-time or full-time

#### ***Coaching***

- Only one person is permitted to stand at the front of the technical area and coach during the match
- A second person may stand but must remain very close to the technical area seating
- All conversations between the two standing must happen close to the technical area seating
- All other technical area occupants should remain seated

#### ***Captains***

- Should take responsibility for the behaviour of their team-mates, encouraging them to play fairly and show respect towards the match officials and their decisions

#### ***Players***

- Must not confront, invade the personal space of, or make physical contact with the match officials
- Two or more players surrounding a match official in a confrontational manner will result in a yellow card and be reported to The FA
- Must not instigate or escalate a mass confrontation with opposing players and/or technical area occupants

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