

BALDOCK TOWN FC

Match Programme

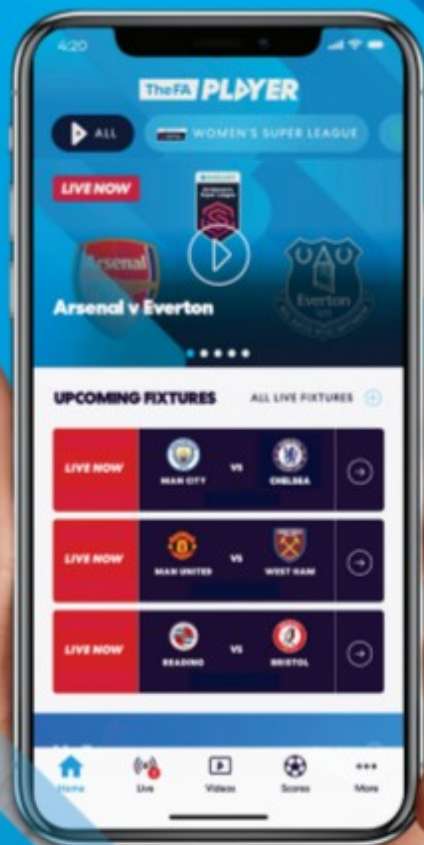


Sat 1st Apr 2023 KO 3:00pm

v LEIGHTON TOWN FC

SSML Premier Division

2022/23 Season : Volume 15. Issue 19



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Welcome

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

Leighton Town are top of the League and running away with it although there aren't many teams around this year with the resources to mount a serious challenge. They beat us 3-1 when we played them away from home but that was last September. We have found a bit of form recently and since it is a home match then we will always have a chance.















The SSML match scheduling system seems to have gone a bit astray as we seem to have eight matches to get through before the end of the season on 22nd April. I am not sure why that is and seems to be unduly hasty as three matches a week is almost impossible for most teams.

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

Upcoming Fixtures

Type	Date / Time	Home Team	Away Team
PREM	01/04/23 15:00	Baldock Town 	VS  Leighton Town
PREM	04/04/23 19:45	Cockfosters 	VS  Baldock Town
PREM	08/04/23 15:00	Dunstable Town 	VS  Baldock Town
PREM	10/04/23 15:00	Baldock Town 	VS  Arlsey Town
PREM	13/04/23 19:45	London Colney 	VS  Baldock Town
PREM	15/04/23 15:00	Baldock Town 	VS  Potton United
PREM	22/04/23 15:00	Ardley United 	VS  Baldock Town

INVESTMENT IN 'THE REDS'

Baldock Town FC would like to announce the interest in investing in Baldock Town FC by some well known wealthy American investors, from Hollywood, which is in fact in America. It is thought that the investing consortium is led by an A-List celebrity who, similar to recent trends, hasn't got a clue about soccer but that it sounds like a whole lot of fun.

He would like to remain anonymous until he understands the offside rule in case Gary Lineker asks him about it on Match of the Day.

The investors apparently have a plan to join some of the clubs from North Hertfordshire to make a super club capable of making it to the top league in Engerland and having potential to play in Europe, as they believe that to be 'not to far from there'.

It is also believed that the basis of the super club would be primarily a merger of Baldock Town FC and Hitchin FC to make a new club called 'Balsitchin Town'. Other lesser clubs in the area would be swallowed up organically, whatever that means, but is in no way similar to other attempted swallowing ups in the past like Baldock Town Letchworth.

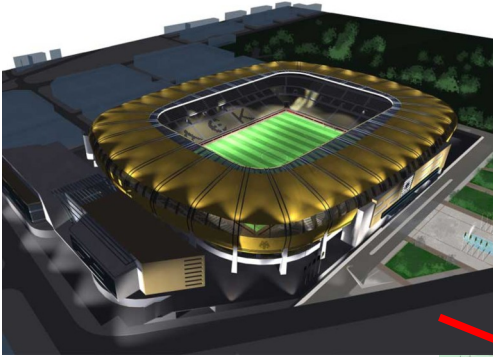
This exciting possibility would mean the building of a 60,000 capacity Super Stadium, for a super club, just South of Baldock that could attract fans from as far afield as North London who want see a club win something. The new stadium will feature interchangeable surfaces capable of modifying the playing conditions from 'ploughed field' to 'bowling green' depending on the opposition and available playing squad. There is even a revolutionary plan for overhead sprinkler systems that could be used to produce monsoon conditions in the unlikely event of the team losing and so abandoning the match.

It is also rumoured that the investors are considering a contract for Shearer and Wright, apparently working for the BBC, to play up front in a semi-dynamic partnership believing that although they have lost a good couple of yards they may still have a season left in them and people would pay good money to see it. Little Dave, Baldock Town Manager, has opened the door for Shearer and Wright and 'if they are good enough they will definitely be in'.

The investors are understood to be extremely excited at the opportunity to invest in 'The Reds' and never expected it to be so cheap to cut a deal on such a world famous club although they thought we were based much further North than we were.

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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.**

”





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LEIGHTON TOWN FC

Leighton Town, who were known as Leighton United between 1922 and 1963, were formed in 1885. They were mainly involved in local leagues until the outbreak of the Great War and were winners of the Leighton and District League on several occasions.

Leighton were one of the original members of the South Midland League in 1922 – which at the time was known as the Bedfordshire County. They were also members of the Spartan League between 1922/23 and 1951/52, but their only successes being the Spartan League Division 2 title in 1923/24 and 1927/28. They were Bedfordshire Senior Cup winners in 1926/27. League

In 1952, they became a founder member of the Hellenic League, but after two disappointing seasons, moved to the South Midlands League. In 1965-66 season however, the Premier Championship sat in the Leighton Town Boardroom. The club then rejoined the Spartan League in 1967-68.

Leighton proceeded to consolidate their League success by winning the Bedfordshire Senior Cup for three successive seasons in 1968, 1969 and 1970. Unfortunately, some of the successful players moved on to other clubs, and Leighton's fortunes again declined. A move to the United Counties League proved disastrous and after just two seasons, the club rejoined the South Midlands League.

During the '70's and '80's, Leighton were unable to capture the success of the '60's.

1990-1991 the First Team won the South Midlands League Challenge Trophy and the O'Brien's Premier Division Cup, both for the first time in the club's history.

The 1991-2 season was one of the club's best. The South Midlands Premier Division title, which had eluded the club for so long, was won, and with it a place in the Isthmian League.

1992-3 saw the Club's success continue when they won the Bedfordshire Senior Cup for the first time since 1970. The Club missed out on promotion in their first Isthmian League season by just a single point but the Youth Team retained the County Cup.

1995-6 saw the First Team win promotion to Division 2 of the Isthmian League, whilst at the same time retaining the Buckingham Charity Cup.

In the 1996/7 season, Leighton won the Isthmian League Associated Members Trophy for the first time. 1998/99 saw the return of the Associated Members Trophy and the Buckingham Charity Cup.

2003-04 Leighton won the Ryman Isthmian Second Division title. They were also named Ryman Division Two Team of the Year, and Paul Burgess was awarded Manager of the Year. They also reached the Fifth round of the FA Vase, and the final of the Beds Senior Cup, before losing to Andover and Arlesey Town respectively.

2004-05 season saw the club placed in The Southern League East Division and finished in a creditable tenth place. They also won the Buckinghamshire Charity Cup. The Reserves won the Bedfordshire Intermediate Cup and the U18's won the SCYFL League Shield.

2005-06 Season saw the Club progress again, improving on the year before, as they finished 8th in The Southern League Western Division. After a poor start, League results improved and the side only suffered four defeats from the start of November until the end of March, a play-off place just eluding them.

LEIGHTON TOWN FC

After three excellent victories interest in the FA Trophy competition ended with a single goal defeat to eventual semi-finalists, Borehamwood.

The Club also reached the Beds Senior Cup Final, but sadly they again finished as Runners Up. The Club were relocated to the Southern League Midland Division for 06-07 season but only one League win in the first six games and early exits in the two FA Competitions cost Paul Burgess his job in September. He was replaced by former Wycombe professional Keith Scott, results did improve but it was a disappointing season, although Town did win the Bucks Senior Charity Cup.

2007-08 started brightly with the first League defeat not coming until mid-October. Three wins in the FA Cup saw the Club reach the 4th Qualifying Round for the first time in it's history. A 3-0 defeat to Conference South, Havant and Waterlooville finally ended the run. Keith Scott then left in December to join Windsor and Eton. In January 2008, Assistant Manager Sean Downey was appointed as First Team Manager and did a splendid job as the Club ended their League season in 9th place, winning the Bucks Charity Cup and reaching the final of the Beds Senior Cup once more.

The 2008-09 Season the First Team finished 8th in the Southern League, Midland Division, achieving their highest points total to date at that level.

2009-10 season saw Leighton once again finish in the top half of the table, when they finished in 9th place and they also lost the Bedfordshire Senior Cup Final to Southern League rivals, Arlesey Town after penalties.

2015-16 After 3 disappointing seasons Leighton finished the season in the bottom two of the Southern League Central Division and were relegated to the Spartan South Midlands League where they had last played in the 1991/92 season.

2016-17 This was a disappointing season with the club struggling for much of the time after yet another Managerial Change. Things did pick up towards the end of the season and we eventually finished in 16th place.

2017-18 The club retained Scott Reynolds as Manager and finished 4th in the League and reached the Quarter Finals of the FA VASE. Gates improved and it was our best season for about 8 years,

2018-19 Manager, Scott Reynolds resigned in the close season and Danny Nicholls was appointed as Manager but left in October due to work commitments. The Club then appointed Joe Sweeney and Paul Copson, who had previously won the Premier division title with London Colney as the new Management Team. They steadied the ship and we finished in mid table.

2019-20 Was a good season for the Club as we again reached the Quarter Final of the FA Vase and after a slow start in the League the team started to find some good form as we slowly climbed up the table. The team were also awarded the Team of the Month twice.

2020-21 Town for the third time in 4 seasons reached the Quarter Final of the FA Vase but sadly lost out to 2 late penalties. An indifferent start in the League meant we could not quite gain the points needed to gain promotion in a Covid affected season.

2021-22 We eventually finished 4th in the table after a mid season Management change and after the disappointment of losing our previous 4 Beds Senior Cup Finals we won the Trophy by beating Southern League Div 1 Champions, Bedford Town on penalties after the game had ended in a 2-2 draw.. Lee Bircham was appointed as our new Manager for the last month of the season and we hope he will bring us further success next season.

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JUNIOR UPDATE

March has been a very exciting month for our youth section with significant progress and some major achievements across all age groups starting with our U13s who secured their first points of the season with a very credible 1-1 draw away to Edgware & Kingsbury in the Eastern Junior Alliance (EJA). This was following a very heavy defeat against the same opponent the previous week so, well done boys.

Our U14s maintained their improved performances of late. After opening the month with a harsh 1-0 defeat at title challengers Cockfosters, they followed this up with a 2-2 draw with high-flying London Lions and a 3 -2 win away at Colney Heath.

Our U18s have played only one game so far this month, a 1-1 draw against a very strong Letchworth Eagles side. This was a significant achievement and a well earned point given we were without five regular starters and fielded no fewer than five U16s. We also lost playmaker Joe Dalli early in the second with a fractured collarbone from a heavy challenge.

Pride of place must go to our U15s who are through to the Hertfordshire FA County Cup Final following a 3 -1 semi-final win over Ware FC Academy. They also remained unbeaten throughout the month, following up a 2-2 draw at Bedford Town with a 4 -1 win over Newmarket Town in their last match.

Spare a thought for our U16s though who went out of their County Cup at the semi-final stage following a 2-1 defeat to Ware FC Academy although they can console themselves with the fact they won through to the EJA League Cup final the following week with a 5 -4 win away at Haverhill Rovers. They also maintained their unbeaten league record with a 5-0 thumping of Cambridge City to consolidate their position at the top of the league.

To cap all this, several of our U16s along with boys from our U18 squad have made the step up to represent the first team at Step 5 in the Spartan South Midlands League. From the moment he took charge of the first team, manager Dave McAdam has been determined to put his faith in the talented youngsters we have at the club and he has been true to his word. So far this season, 'Little' Dave has used no fewer than 10 under 18s and two under 16s in first team fixtures. This supports the clubs ambition to continue the development of our young players and to provide them with a genuine pathway into the first team.

If you want to get along to a game to witness the continuing progress of our boys, here is the home schedule for Sunday, 2nd April at the Baldock Arena:

U14s v Northwood Youth - kickoff 10:00

U15s v Leighton Town - kickoff 12:30

TODAY'S SQUADS

BALDOCK TOWN FC

David Archer
Robbie Buchanan
Newman Carney
Joe Dalli
Gurjosh Dhesi
Mamadou Diallo
Harry Dollimore
Matthew Ford
Josh Furness
Jack Hewitt
Charlie Joy
Callum Kane
Dean Laing
Joshua Mollison
Jamie Norris
Jay Palmer
Tommy Reynolds
Owen Robertson
Dominik Robertson
Luke Rowland
Harrison Sollis
Adam Turner
Jude White

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

LEIGHTON TOWN FC

Xavier Comas Leon
Emmanuel Folarin
Kyle Connolly
(C) Gary Connolly
Harry Seabrook
Luke Pyman
James Towell
Ben Spaul
Archie McClelland
Leon Lobjoit
Jake Tabor
Jason Beck
Ronan Hutchins
Kwai Marsh Brown
Reece Robins
Max Farrelly
Ethan Flanagan
Oran Jackson

Mgr;
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