

# The Talk of the Town

Volume #21, Tuesday 18th February



**Tickets: £6 Adults, £3 Concessions, £1 Under 16s  
vs Tring Athletic  
Bell Close, LU7 1RX  
Spartan South Midlands Premier Division**



# People at the Club

First Team Managers: Joe Sweeney and Paul Copson.

Physio Team: John Rutherford and Lorraine Smith.

Chairman: Alan Penman

Vice Chairman: Steve Harris

Director of Football: Sean Downey

Secretary: Roy Parker

Treasurer: Steve Harris

Match Photos: Andrew Parker

Media: Kieran Carvell

Hall Hire: Pauline Parker

Groundsman: Bruce Warner



# A word from the Press Box

Good evening everyone and welcome to Bell Close for today's Spartan South Midlands Premier Division fixture between ourselves and Tring Athletic. A warm welcome to our visitors this evening, in what promises to be a very entertaining local derby!

It's not been a bad couple of weeks has it! A win over league leaders Colney Heath, another 3 points over London Colney, last Tuesday through to the Semi Finals of the DLT with a win over Potton! But 2 Saturday's ago... What a fantastic win for us, 3-1 away from home in the Last 16 of the Buildbase FA Vase. We are back into the quarter finals, 2 years after last reaching them. The dream of Wembley is only 2 rounds away!

We are on our travels for the 3rd round in a row, as we head to Kent, to take on Corinthian FC in the Quarter Finals. A massive game for us as a club and we encourage you to make the journey with us and show your support for the boys! They deserve it having come so far already! Today, it's league action again and we hope you enjoy the game with us!

Up the Town.



# History

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 League. 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.

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 onto 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.

In 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. The 1991/2 season was one of the club's best ever. 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.

Season 2003/04 was arguably one of the Club's best ever, as the First Team won the Ryman Isthmian Second Division title. The team was 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 respectively.

The 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, a first in the club's history.

The 05-06 Season saw the Club progress again, improving on the year before, as they finished 8th in The Southern League West 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.

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.

The 07-08 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 its history. A 3-0 defeat to Conference South, Havant and Waterlooville finally ended the run. Keith Scott 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 08/09 Season the First Team finished 8th in the Southern League, Midland Division, achieving their highest points total to date at that level.

The 09/10 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.

# History

Season 2010/2011, saw Town finish in 7th place in the League, gaining 69 points, their best performance since joining the Southern Football League.

The 2011/2012 a poor season saw Leighton finish in their lowest position for several years.

2012/13 was also very disappointing for the First Team as they finished in 20th place.

2015/2016. 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.

2016/2017 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, however Manager, Scott Reynolds resigned at the end of the season.

2018/2019 The Club appointed experienced coach Danny Nicholls as the new Manager, but he resigned at the start of October. The Club then appointed Joe Sweeney and Paul Copson as their Management Team and results improved but we were unable to reach the top third of the table..

2019 We are hoping to be competitive this season with several new signings but this is a very difficult Division and we are well aware of the quality of many of the teams.



# **A MASSIVE GAME FOR OUR FOOTBALL CLUB!**



## **THE BUILDBASE FA VASE QUARTER FINAL**

**CORINTHIAN V LEIGHTON TOWN**

**Sat 29th Feb, 3PM, Gay Dawn Farm, DA3 8LY  
TWO ROUNDS FROM WEMBLEY!**

# **JOIN US IN KENT! WE NEED YOU AND YOUR BRILLIANT SUPPORT!**

# Away Fan Guide

## Transport

Bell Close (LU7 1RX) is situated in the centre of Leighton Buzzard, opposite Morrisons.

There is a bus stop next to the entrance and the Train Station is a 15 minute walk away, where trains run frequently to London, Milton Keynes, Birmingham etc.

If you are coming to Bell Close by car, you can come through Town or down off the bypass (A4146) and down Grovebury Road. This will avoid a potential busy Town Centre, especially on a Saturday Afternoon.

Parking can be found at the ground, or further afield in a number of side streets.

Parking at the ground on a busy matchday will be limited.

## Food and Drink

At the club, we have a brilliant tea bar that serves a massive range of hot and cold food items, including burgers, bacon, sausages, curry and more!

In the bar, we have light snacks, as well as a range of draught lagers and ciders.

We also have soft drinks as well as bottles of ale and beer.

In Town, there are a range of pubs, with The Sun being the pub the closest in proximity to Bell Close.

In Town there is a Wetherspoons, as well as fish and chip shops and restaurants.

Across the road, there is Morrisons who have a Deli Counter serving hot food.



# **Our Sponsors**

Our Sponsors for this year:

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## **#YourTownYourTeam**



# REPORT vs Bradford

The Wembley dream lives on in Leighton Buzzard, after a 3-1 victory away from home against Bradford Town. The Wiltshire side came into the game top of the ToolStation Western League, so Town knew they had to work hard to progress through the Last 16 of the FA Vase. Work hard they did and on 14 minutes, after frantic opening exchanges, Town took the lead! A poor clearance found the feet of James Towell on the edge of the area, who sublimely controlled and volleyed the ball over the keeper and into the top corner! An unbelievable strike to open the scoring! With Bradford constantly playing 'route-one' football, Town's rearguard we're having to deal with long balls and throughout the tie, they dealt with them impeccably! Brad Kirkwood was tested twice on 27 minutes. After initially making a fine save to tip a drive around the post, he was called back into action from the corner, as he got down low to stop Bradford levelling. Just 2 minutes later and Town extended their advantage to 2! James Towell broke free down the left flank, making his way into the area before squaring to (you guessed it), Danny Webb, who tucked it home from a two yards out! Elation for the Town, as they took a 2 goal lead, with their 2 only real chances! Bradford ramped up the pressure even more as the first half drew to a close, with Kirkwood called into action again, making a good low stop. Just before the break though, the hosts pulled a goal back. A well worked move in the area was finished off at the far post, to give the hosts hope going into the interval. The second half began with Bradford peppering Town's backline with long balls, that Resch, Murphy, Foulger and the rest, were more than happy to mop up and deal with. Kirkwood wasn't tested to much in the opening 15 minutes of the second half, only having to make one or two comfortable saves. On 61 minutes, Kieran Turner was replaced by Archie McClelland, as Town used their ever-dependable and quality resources on the bench. The strength in depth is unbelievable. Bradford's skipper entered the book on 64 minutes after a cynical foul on Danny Webb, as the latter broke clear. As the game moved on into the later stages, it became more and more stretched, with Bradford throwing everything forward. With them doing so, that left space in behind for Town. Archie McClelland nearly punished the hosts for not tracking back. On 72 minutes, Last 32 hero Ashton Campbell was introduced to proceedings, with Danny Webb making way. Towell and McClelland both had drives saved by the goalkeeper, as Town looked set on finding that 3rd goal. However, Bradford turned up the pressure with 15 minutes left on the clock and began to dominate. Kirkwood had to make 3 brilliant saves in a 6 minute period to keep the hosts at bay. Town continued to defend the barrage of long balls coming their way and after clearing one to Campbell, Town went and made it 3. Campbell expertly picked out Towell's run and the latter squared it to Archie McClelland, who made it 3-1, with 4 minutes to go, right in front of the vocal Town supporters! A carbon copy almost if Danny Webb's goal earlier, with James Towell instrumental yet again! With just minutes left, Town had one foot in the quarter finals. Ross Adams came on in place of Alfie Osborne as the game ticked on. Kirkwood was called into action again to get down low and make a save, with Town defending resolutely! Bradford's defender entering the book for a foul on Towell was the last play of the game and Town had done it! They are through to the quarter finals of the Buildbase FA Vase! Just 2 rounds from playing at Wembley in the final! A battling, hard-working, disciplined, fantastic performance from Town, as they march on to the Quarters! Defensively solid as a rock, Brad Kirkwood even being voted man of the match by the Bradford sponsors, offensively so clinical! What a team to get excited about, what a buzz around the club. Thank you for your brilliant support on what was a fantastic day! It doesn't go unnoticed and made for some great scenes!



# **BOOK YOUR PARTY WITH US**



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LEIGHTON BUZZARD  
LU7 1RX**

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# The Tea Bar Menu

WE DO  
OUTSIDE



|                                    |                           |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| SAUSAGE BAP                        | £2.50                     |
| BACON BAP                          | £2.50                     |
| BURGER                             | £3.00                     |
| CHESBURGER                         | £3.50<br><del>£4.00</del> |
| CHICKEN WRAP                       | £3.50                     |
| SAUSAGE ROLL                       | £1.50                     |
| PASTY- VARIOUS                     | £2.50                     |
| TEA / COFFEE                       | £1.00                     |
| HOT CHOCOLATE                      | £1.50                     |
| BOVRIL                             | £1.00                     |
| SPECIALS : CHICKEN CURRY<br>+ RICE | £5.00                     |



TODAYS PASTIES  
CHEESE + ONION  
CHICKEN CURRY  
CHICKEN + VEG

VICTORIA SPONGE £1.20  
CHOCOLATE CAKE £1.50  
SAUCE







# Squads



1. Brad Kirkwood
2. Tom Bryant
3. Tom Silford
4. Dave Murphy
5. Carl Resch
6. Alfie Osborne
7. James Towell
8. Jordon Fredericks
9. Ashton Campbell
10. Danny Webb
11. Archie McClelland
12. Ben Pattie
13. Alex Condon
14. Kieran Turner
15. Luke Pyman
16. Louie Collier
17. Michael Donkor
18. Ross Adams

1. Clement Asante
2. James Butler
3. Harry Cornick
4. Joe Cowan
5. William Foley
6. Miles Habashi
7. Kevin McManus
8. Prince Nimoh
9. William Salmon
10. David Saunders
11. Jack Sunderland
12. Conor Blake
13. Frankie Hercules
14. Joe Naylor

**Today's Officials:**

**Matthew Ball, David Augros, Chaolun Tan**