

The Talk of the Town

Volume #11, Tuesday 5th November



**Tickets: £6 Adults, £3 Concessions, £1 Under 16s
vs Wembley FC
Bell Close, LU7 1RX
Premier Division Cup**



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

Reports, Programmes, Kitman, Media:

Kieran Carvell

Hall Hire: Pauline Parker

Groundsman: Bruce Warner



Welcome to Bell Close

A very warm welcome to Bell Close, for today's Premier Division Cup match with Wembley FC, our warmest of welcomes to our visitors, who have travelled from North London this evening.

Another great FA Vase day on Saturday, as we saw off Broxbourne Borough in a 6-1 win. A very young Broxbourne side, who were a credit to their club.

That sees us into the 3rd Round of the Buildbase FA Vase and the draw has now been made...

We will be hosting Eastbourne Town at Bell Close. This tie is scheduled to be played on Saturday the 30th of November.

A date for your diaries I'm sure!

Until then, plenty of fixtures coming up!

Enjoy the game.



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, the first time 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.



VISITORS HISTORY



WEMBLEY FOOTBALL CLUB was formed in 1946 following an amalgamation of various junior clubs, predominantly Sudbury Ratepayers Association and Sudbury Rangers. Nicknamed the 'Lions', (the symbol of the British Empire Exhibition held at Wembley in 1924/25, the emblem was also used by the local speedway and ice-hockey teams), they found a home at Vale Farm and have remained there ever since, developing a roped-off pitch into a respectable non-League football ground.

Entry was immediately made into the Middlesex League. After finishing a creditable fourth in their first season they went on to win the championship in 1947/48. A further season was spent in this league before the Club progressed into the Spartan League in 1949/50. Here they stayed for two years, clinching the Western Division title in 1950/51 as a result of which they became founder members of the Delphian League.

In season 1955/56 they reached the finals of both the London Senior Cup and Middlesex Senior Cup and also finished runners-up in the Delphian League. In recognition of these achievements they were invited to join the Corinthian League and subsequently vastly improved the facilities at Vale Farm.

Following a quiet period the Club moved into the Athenian League (1963/64) which had absorbed both the Corinthian and Delphian Leagues to create three divisions. Wembley were placed in the middle section. Malcolm Allison (1962-1963) and Allen Batsford (1964-1965) were both employed as coaches by the Lions during this period, although their respective spells were brief. Both gentlemen went on to have distinguished careers elsewhere and who knows where the Club might be today had either one of them remained at Vale Farm.

Wembley did manage to gain promotion to the Premier Division in 1967/68. To anticipate further progress floodlights were installed, a new clubhouse and dressing-room complex were built and eventually admission to the expanding Isthmian League was granted in 1975. Finished runners-up in their final season justified Wembley's elevation.

Wembley began their first season in the Isthmian League (1975/76) in the second division (now the first division). The closest they came to promotion to the Premier Division was in 1985/86. After completing their fixtures, Wembley headed the table only to miss out on going up by two points when both St. Albans City and Bromley won their respective games in hand. Only two teams went up in those days.

Despite failing to achieve promotion, Wembley obtained some minor compensation by recording various cup successes during this period. In 1980/81 they reached the First Round Proper of the F.A. Cup for the one and only time, losing 0-3 to Enfield at Southbury Road.

The Middlesex Charity Cup was won outright for the first time in 1982/83, while the Middlesex Senior Cup was also clinched for the first time a season later with a dramatic 5-1 success over Hendon. In 1986/87 Wembley won the coveted Middlesex Cup double with final wins over Hayes in the Senior Cup and Feltham in the Charity Cup, a feat nearly repeated during the following season.

Both finals were lost although the disappointment was tempered by beating Brentford at Griffin Park in the semi-final of the Middlesex Charity Cup, and having the final played at Wembley Stadium.

Several unprofitable years have followed and a fire at Vale Farm during the summer of 1992 almost ended Wembley's existence. Fortunately, thanks to some splendid off-the-field work, new facilities were quickly erected and the Club survived.

Wembley last won some silverware in 1994/95 with a 2-0 victory over Hampton in the final of the Middlesex Charity Cup. The Lions also went on to reach the second round proper of the F.A. Trophy in 1995/96 (their best run in the old F.A. Amateur Cup was also ended at the second round proper stage 1966/67 and 1968/69). However, their lengthy first division status was ended at the finish of that season when they suffered relegation into division two (now in Step Five).

By claiming third place, a quick return to the first division was achieved a season later, but their division one tenure lasted just two seasons and they relegated again at the end of 1998/99. As a result of the restructuring of the Isthmian League's constitution, Wembley regained a berth in the first division (north) for the 2002/03 season. But they were unable to maintain their place and were demoted into the second division at the end of that campaign.

Wembley were forced to leave the Isthmian League set-up at the end of the 2005/06 season following the disbanding of the second division. They joined the Combined Counties League. A sterling effort was made to win promotion during their first season (2006/07), but ran out of steam to end the term in the third place.

Apart from that, they failed to make a real impact, although they did reach the final of the Combined Counties League Cup in 2010/11, but lost to Sandhurst Town, 0-1, at Farnborough. However, after their participation in the following season's F.A. Cup, (their Extra-Preliminary Round tie with Ascot United was covered live on Facebook) the competition sponsors, Budweiser, offered the Lions a much-publicised deal which they could not refuse. This included the signing of several retired professionals to help the Lions progress as far as possible in the 2012/13 F.A. Cup under the guidance of Terry Venables. Unfortunately, Wembley only played three games in the competition before bowing out.

After eight years, Wembley's membership of the Combined Counties League was ended by a lateral move across Step Five of the non-League pyramid. They are commencing their sixth year in the Spartan South Midlands League Premier Division after joining in 2014/15, finishing last season's campaign in twelfth place.

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 Tea Bar open that serves a range of Hot and Cold food and Hot drinks.

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 fantastic Deli Counter serving hot food.

Enjoy the Game.



Our Sponsors

Our Sponsors for this year:

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**21st, 30th, 40th & ANY OTHER SPECIAL BIRTHDAYS
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WORK DO's....END OF SEASON FUNCTIONS
SUITABLE FOR ALL OCCASIONS**

**TO CHECK AVAILABILITY EMAIL
bookings@leightontownfc.co.uk**

FIXTURES

DLC	05/11/19	19:45	Leighton Town	Wembley	LEIGHTON BUZZARD SPORTS ASSOCIATION LTD
PREM	09/11/19	15:00	Leighton Town	Edgware Town	LEIGHTON BUZZARD SPORTS ASSOCIATION LTD
PREM	12/11/19	19:45	Leighton Town	Crawley Green	LEIGHTON BUZZARD SPORTS ASSOCIATION LTD
PREM	16/11/19	15:00	Tring Athletic	Leighton Town	The Grass Roots Stadium
PREM	19/11/19	19:45	Leighton Town	Eynesbury Rovers	LEIGHTON BUZZARD SPORTS ASSOCIATION LTD
PREM	23/11/19	15:00	Leighton Town	Harefield United	LEIGHTON BUZZARD SPORTS ASSOCIATION LTD
PREM	26/11/19	19:45	Leighton Town	Potton United	LEIGHTON BUZZARD SPORTS ASSOCIATION LTD
PREM	07/12/19	15:00	Leighton Town	Biggleswade United	LEIGHTON BUZZARD SPORTS ASSOCIATION LTD
PREM	10/12/19	19:45	London Colney	Leighton Town	LONDON COLNEY FC
PREM	14/12/19	15:00	Baldock Town	Leighton Town	ARLESEY TOWN FC
PREM	21/12/19	15:00	Leighton Town	Arlesey Town	LEIGHTON BUZZARD SPORTS ASSOCIATION LTD
PREM	28/12/19	15:00	Dunstable Town	Leighton Town	CREASEY PARK



The Sports Roundup



The Sports Roundup for the Leighton

Buzzard area with Kieran Carvell

Mondays 8pm

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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. Josh Setchell
14. Kuda Butawo
15. Les Barker
16. Anthony Leslie
17. Michael Donkor
18. Les Barker

1. Raheem Belgrave
2. Ethan Tyrer
3. Juachim Ejinfor
4. Michael Karasinski
5. Angelo D'Alessio
6. Jack Walker
7. Jonathan Iley
8. Jaiden Babalola
9. Stephen Ebonine
10. Yassine Fehmi-Gil
11. Jermaine Heron
12. Mark Simuchimba
13. Aaron Fearon
14. Femi Ogunsola
15. Calvin Osborne
16. Charlie Weir
17. Ned Lee Jones
18. Perry Aitchison

OFFICIALS

Referee: Neo Neophytou.

**Assistants: Richard Wharton and Lyn
McGregor.**

