



TOWN TALK

Volume #9



**VS GORLESTON,
SAT 19TH DEC, 3PM,
BELL CLOSE**





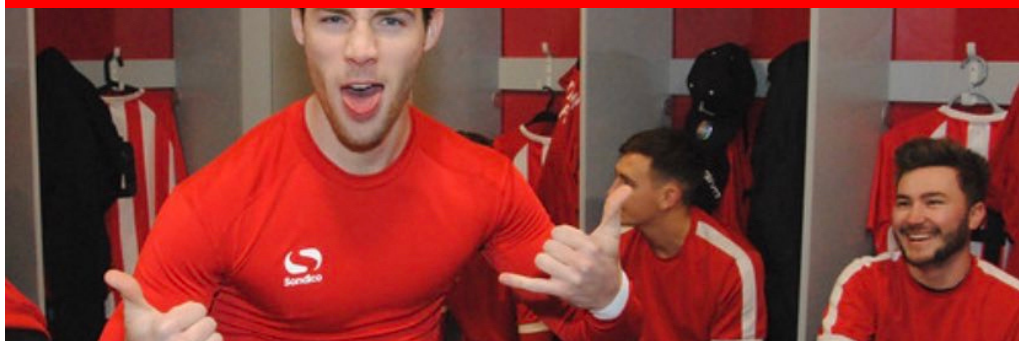
WELCOME TO TOWN TALK

Welcome to the 2020/21 Matchday Programme. We've gone to real effort to make this year's programme, our best yet, so please feel free to give us any feedback you may have. A warm welcome to this afternoon's visitors, Biggleswade United.

WHAT'S IN THE PROGRAMME

PAGE 4: A WORD FROM THE PRESS BOX

Kieran Carvell gives you the rundown of all recent and upcoming Town news and fixtures!



TODAY'S TIE

OPPOSITION

Gorleston FC

TIME, VENUE & COMPETITION

3pm, Bell Close, FA Vase 3rd Round

LAST TIME OUT

We last met Gorleston 3 years ago in the FA Vase 3rd round, just like today! We ran out 4-2 winners away at Emerald Park.



PEOPLE AT THE CLUB

The hard-working volunteers at our Football Club:

Acting Chairman: Steve Harris

Director of Football: Sean Downey

First Team Managers: Joe Sweeney and Paul Copson

Physio Team: John Rutherford and Lorraine Smith

Secretary: Roy Parker

Photographer: Andrew Parker

Hall-Hire: Pauline Parker

Groundsman: Bruce Warner

Media: Kieran Carvell



A WORD FROM THE PRESS BOX

Good afternoon everyone and welcome to Bell Close, for this afternoons Buildbase FA Vase Third Round tie between ourselves and Gorleston. A warm welcome to our visitors who have made the long journey during tough circumstances to join us today!

Well, from today, we find ourselves in Tier 3! Therefore, from now until we are (hopefully), moved back up to Tier 2/1, we will be limited to just 150 supporters at home games, as well as not being able to open our Bar or Tea Bar. Today is all ticket and sold out (thank you for your support), and we will provide an update regarding admission before our now next scheduled home fixture, which will now be in the New Year!

Also, we are to advise our supporters to NOT travel to any Town away games. This is under league and government guidelines with all teams in the SSML Premier being in Tier 3 (except Eynesbury).

Talking of Eynesbury, our fixture there on Tuesday was suddenly 'postponed', therefore, we look to make it back-to-back home wins after last Saturday's 2-1 league win against Newport Pagnell. See the report later on in the programme.

As this is our last home game before the New Year, we would like to wish you and your families and friends a very happy and a very safe Christmas and a happy new year! We look forward to welcoming you home in the New Year.



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For ALL



YOUR TOWN, YOUR 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.



YOUR TOWN, YOUR HISTORY

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 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 it's 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.

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.



YOUR TOWN, YOUR HISTORY

A 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..

2019/20: A very poor league start saw us with just one point in 8 games. However, fortunes changed and we went 5 months unbeaten in the league, drawing just once. We also had an FA Vase run once more, reaching the Quarter Final stages again, with memorable games over Eastbourne Town and Eynesbury Rovers. When the season was called to a halt due to COVID-19, we were in 7th-place, however had 5 games in-hand on 2nd, with a 14-point gap. Overall, a very competitive and in the end, great season.

2020/21: We'll find out...





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Silver Jubilee Park,
Tue 22nd Dec, 7:30pm

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MATCH REPORT

With Lockdown 2 behind us, Town returned to winning ways in the league, with a well-battled 2-1 win with 10-men for well over an hour, against local rivals, Newport Pagnell Town.

It was the visitors who started the brighter of the two sides, with the lively Jim Burnside causing Town a couple of early issues, but no major problems.

Town did have the ball in the back of the net just eight minutes into the game, when Louie Collier met James Towell's inviting cross with his head, beating Wyant, but not beating the lineswoman's flag on the far side.

Archie McClelland was next to close for Town, also with his head, but couldn't beat former Reds goalkeeper, Tom Wyant.

Still inside the opening ten minutes and Burnside should've put the visitors in front after breaking clear on the right side of the goal, but failed to hit the target when aiming for the opposite corner.

The Swans continued to create chances, but none of them were of any difficulty for Brad Kirkwood in between the Town goal.

As the chances became more few and far between, the game became cagier, with Alfie Osborne, Sonny Newbury-Barr and debutant, Connor Toomey, working tremendously hard to win the ball back and carry Town forward when needed.

Then, on 32 minutes, the deadlock was broken! It was Town who took the lead, when Archie McClelland laid the ball off to Collier, who flicked the ball past Sage and fired underneath the legs of Wyant! A goal of class from Collier, who continues to show why he is rated so highly in this division.

With Town dictating the game after the goal, the referee decided to change that flow. Tom Silford was adjudged to have gone in high on a Newport midfielder and the referee pulled out a straight red card and sent Silford in for an early bath.

If anything, the decision gave Town a boost and kept them working at the highest of gears.

Ashton Campbell went close from the edge, as did Archie McClelland just before the interval.

In between those two chances saw Sweeney and Copson make a tactical swap following the red card, with Campbell replaced by Ross Adams.

The opening 20 minutes of the second half were scrappy, with neither side able to get a real hold on the game.

On the 63rd minute came the first chance of the second period. Burnside was picked out inside the area, 10-yards from goal, but was thwarted by the outstretched leg of the outstanding, Brad Kirkwood!

The game remained pulsating despite the lack of chances, with Town still looking to make it two and more comfortable, and Newport looking to spoil the restart party in front of a 314 strong crowd at Bell Close!

Kirkwood's long drop kick eighteen minutes from time eluded the Newport rearguard and McClelland had the chance to pounce, but saw his shot blocked by Sage.

The feeling around the ground was that there was another goal coming in this one... And they were right on 77 minutes! Louie Collier found himself in behind the Swans back line once again and he finished past Wyant with a delicate chip, to take the roof off of Bell Close!

With Town now having secured a two goal cushion, Sweeney and Copson looked to the bench for a change and brought on the excellent, Brian Foulger for Archie McClelland.

Newport began to throw the kitchen sink at the game, desperately trying to salvage a vital point.

Just five minutes remained on the clock when they curled a free-kick just over Kirkwood's bar.

With the seconds feeling like hours for Town supporters, Newport continued to apply the pressure. Burnside yet again found himself in space just a matter of yards out, but this time was met by the out-stretched palm of Kirkwood, who tipped the strike over the bar and behind for a corner. An unbelievable save with time of the essence.

Town made their final change on 90 minutes, when Tom Bryant came on for Sonny Newbury-Barr, who had put an outstanding shift in, alongside Osborne and Toomey.

Kirkwood made another big save when he tipped over a looping effort from the visitors.

However, as the game entered stoppage time, Town's defensive wall was broken, when Stronge of the visitors placed the ball into the car corner from the edge of the six yard box after Town failed to clear a corner.

The goal made everyone around the ground nervous and Town just needed to see the game out, with the score line now just 2-1.

A minor injury to Kirkwood after a collision with Burnside saw the momentum taken out of the clash.

Newport continued to throw bodies forward and were in behind with their right back in a crossing position inside the area, but he sent his attempt into the Brook behind the Shed End.

The referee's final whistle was a massive relief for all around Bell Close, including the boys in red and white on the pitch, who were absolutely tremendous despite being down to ten men for 60 minutes.

A brilliant afternoon's work and effort from Town, who climb to fifth in the league



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Here's how we sit in the SSML Premier Division ahead of today's tie with Gorleston!

POS		P	W	D	L	GD	PTS
1	Biggleswade United	13	9	1	3	15	28
2	Eynesbury Rovers	12	8	1	3	17	25
3	Colney Heath	12	7	4	1	9	25
4	Potton United	13	7	2	4	7	23
5	Oxhey Jets	11	6	4	1	22	22
6	Leighton Town	10	7	1	2	13	22
7	Harpenden Town	11	7	1	3	8	22
8	Harefield United	12	7	0	5	-1	21
9	Newport Pagnell Town	12	5	4	3	7	19
10	Baldock Town	12	6	1	5	3	19
11	Aylesbury Vale Dynamos	10	6	1	3	2	19
12	Leverstock Green	11	5	1	5	2	16
13	Dunstable Town	13	4	4	5	-8	16
14	Crawley Green	13	4	2	7	-9	14
15	Arlesey Town	9	4	0	5	-4	12
16	Edgware Town	10	3	1	6	-10	10
17	Tring Athletic	14	3	0	11	-11	9
18	North Greenford United	10	2	2	6	-7	8
19	Broadfields United	11	2	1	8	-8	7
20	Wembley	12	1	2	9	-20	5
21	London Colney	11	1	1	9	-27	4





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SQUADS AND OFFICIALS

Your Town Squad:

1. **Brad Kirkwood**
2. **Tom Bryant**
3. **Tom Silford**
4. **Joe Fitzgerald**
5. **Dave Murphy**
6. **Brian Foulger**
7. **Archie McClelland**
8. **Jordon Frederick**
9. **Louie Collier**
10. **James Towell**
11. **Ashton Campbell**
12. **Carl Resch**
13. **Ben Pattie**
14. **Ross Adams**
15. **Alfie Osborne**
16. **Sonny Newbury-Barr**

Gorleston Squad:

1. **Jake Jessup**
2. **Stephen Taylor**
3. **Luke Goreham**
4. **Mitch McKay**
5. **Connor Deeks**
6. **George Yusuff**
7. **Kyle Ingram**
8. **Joel Watts**
9. **Christy Finch**
10. **Connor Ingram**
11. **Chris Henderson**
12. **Sam Ellis**
13. **Peter Lambert**
14. **Joe Corby**
15. **Aaron Sanderes**

Today's Match Officials:

Mark Stevens, Tom Burns, Chris Howes