

# The Talk of the Town

Volume #19, Tuesday 14th January



**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

Ladies and Gentlemen, good evening and welcome to today's Spartan South Midlands Premier Division tie against Tring Athletic. A warm welcome to our visitors who have made the short journey to be here.

We've played 3 games in 2020 now, 2 different cup competitions and 1 friendly, so this evenings clash is our first league game of 2020 and the new decade.

Last time out against Tring, it really was a memorable day, with a Danny Webb brace, one of which I'm sure you've seen, winning it for us. On that day, our boys really were heroes, running themselves into the ground!

We are now also, in the Last 16 of the FA Vase. A heroic comeback and a brilliant hat-trick from today's cover star, Ashton Campbell.

We will travel to Bradford Town in the Last 16, that is by the way, Bradford-on-Avon and not Bradford in Yorkshire! That tie is set to be played on the 8th of February.

We travel to Leverstock Green this Saturday in another league match, this time at Pancake Lane. Last time out against them, we recorded our first league win of the season.

We also remain on a run of 15 games unbeaten, winning 14 of those games!

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.



# 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.



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## **#YourTownYourTeam**

# REPORT vs Eynesbury

6 weeks on from the Last 64 2-1 victory over Eastbourne, Town travelled to fellow SSML opposition, Eynesbury Rovers in the Last 32 of this years Buildbase FA Vase.

Town looked to set about their business early on and almost opened the scoring within the first 90 seconds! Archie McClelland's curling shot was tipped onto the post by the goalkeeper.

However, just 5 minutes lead, the deadlock was broken and Town struck an early lead.

Eynesbury's centre back failed to deal with a long ball and headed past his own goalkeeper, to put the Town a goal in front.

Just 5 minutes later though, it was back to level terms. Billy Baird's foul gave the hosts a chance from the spot which they took. A well dispatched penalty.

The rest of the first half presented one or two chances for Eynesbury, that were saved well by the ever dependable, Brad Kirkwood. But, other than that, a tense and scrappy affair.

The second half got underway and gave spectators 5 goals to take in!

Eynesbury went in front for the first time in the game, after a ball bobbling around in the area was finished well.

Just a few minutes later, around the 60th minute mark, Eynesbury extended their lead to 3-1.

Brown was unmarked in the area and headed beyond Kirkwood.

With just 30 minutes to go and Town 3-1 down, it didn't look good for the Bedfordshire side.

However, Ben Pattie and Ashton Campbell were introduced and the game turned on its head.

With 75 minutes on the clock, Town pulled a goal back. Pattie's excellent cross found the head of fellow substitute Campbell, who headed back across the keeper for 3-2.

Town continued to dominate as the game entered the later stages and they searched for an equaliser.

That equaliser came on 83 minutes, when Danny Webb's fantastic cross was once again met by the head of Campbell, who powered home to make it 3-3, with a few minutes left on the clock!

With extra-time looming, we entered what is now dubbed 'Sweeney time', rather than 'Fergie time'!

Ben Pattie hit a beautiful pass to Campbell, who took it on his chest, before firing past the keeper with his left foot! An unbelievable goal and an unbelievable comeback, with Town winning it in stoppage yet again!

A brilliant win and performance from the boys in Red, who will await the draw at Monday 1PM.



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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 <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 + 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. Martin Conway
15. Luke Pyman
16. Anthony Leslie
17. Michael Donkor
18. Ross Adams

1. Charlie Mann
2. Ben Johnson
3. Jack Sunderland
4. Michael Toner
5. Jacob Carter
6. Aaron Jones
7. Luke Dunston
8. Louie Collier
9. Terry Dixon
10. Marcus Mealing
11. Frazer John
12. Casey O'Gorman
13. Toby Syme
14. Mulik Rickman
15. Frankie Hercules
16. Lewis Todd

# OFFICIALS

**Referee: Mario Stetakovic.**

**Assistants: Daniel Jones and Zachary  
Trundell.**

