



# TOWN TALK

Volume #6

**VS LEVERSTOCK GREEN,  
SAT 24TH OCT, 3PM,  
BELL CLOSE**







# WELCOME TO TOWN TALK

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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

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### **PAGE 4: A WORD FROM THE PRESS BOX**

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

### **PAGE 11: THE LOWDOWN WITH JAMES TOWELL**

One of our finest gives us the lowdown this time, it's James Towell!

## TODAY'S TIE

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### **OPPOSITION**

**Leverstock Green**

### **TIME & VENUE**

**3pm at Bell Close**

### **COMPETITION**

**Spartan South Midlands  
Premier Division**



# PEOPLE AT THE CLUB

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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

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Welcome to Bell Close for this afternoons Spartan clash with Leverstock Green.

A warm welcome to our visitors today.

A good 10 days on the road for us, picking up 4 points on the road, having been to Oxhey and Newport Pagnell.

Don't even get us started on Fitzy's goal.

Today, it's Levy Green at home and we hope you enjoy yourselves. Please may I remind you to stay distanced from each other and respect all rules we as a club have put in place. Up the Town!





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# YOUR TOWN, YOUR HISTORY

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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

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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.e 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 it's history. A 3-0 defeat to Conference South, Havant and Waterloooville 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

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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...







# LEVY GREEN HISTORY

Leverstock Green Football Club was formed around 1895. The first match reports appeared on January 4th 1896 in the Advertiser and gave an account of a match against Hemel Hempstead Rovers.

The first competitive fixtures were reported during season 1908/1909 when the Club competed in Division Three of the West Herts League. Other clubs competing in the league at that time were: Abbots Langley, Bovington, Boxmoor, Bushey Heath, Hagden Lane, Kings Langley and Potten End.

The Club ground in Pancake Lane originally formed part of the Gorhambury Estate, Lord Verulam making the ground available for the youth of the area and his estate workers to enjoy a game of ball. Clearly Lord Verulam was an early enthusiast, providing timber-built changing rooms, which have been progressively replaced since the 1960's by the existing brick built clubhouse and changing rooms.

On the death of the Lord, certain parcels of land, including that on which the Football Club stood, fell to the Crown in lieu of death duties and is administered on its behalf by the Commission for New Towns, who have remained the Club's landlords since that time, despite two unsuccessful attempts by the Club to buy the freehold.

The club remained members of the West Herts League until 1954 when it broadened its horizons and successfully applied to join the Herts County League.

By the mid 1970's the Club started to move forward with a new clubhouse, post & rail and the installation of training lights.

The playing side of the club also improved and in 1979 the club won Division One of the Herts County League and were promoted to the Premier Division the highest standard the Club had achieved in 80 years.

In 1991 the Club were accepted into the South Midlands League and had two highly successful seasons in the Premier Division before being forced to drop into the Senior Division, as floodlights were then not available. In 1996 the club finished in runners-up position and the following season were the divisional champions but could not be promoted because floodlights had still not received approval from the Council.

Premier Division status was eventually regained in 2003, and the club is now the longest-standing current member of the division. The club's highest finish in the Premier Division has been 4th, in season 2010/11, with top six finishes also being recorded in 2005/06, 2006/07 and 2008/09.

Season 2010/11 also saw the club's best ever run in the FA Vase, with wins over Welwyn Garden City, Enfield, Hullbridge Sports, Tunbridge Wells and Bemerton Heath Harlequins before defeat in the Fifth Round against Rye United. The club has twice reached the Third Round of the FA Vase, in seasons 2006/07 and 2018/19.

Leverstock Green entered the FA Cup for the first time in 2004, and the club's best performance has been reaching the Second Round Qualifying, which was achieved in 2014/15, where we were beaten by Staines Town, and in 2018/19 where we were beaten by Dorking Wanderers.

County honours were won in 2006/07 and 2010/11 as the Herts Charity Shield was lifted, and the club were beaten finalists in the Herts Charity Cup in 2011/12. After finishing runners-up four times over the previous 12 years, The West Herts FA St Mary's Cup was finally lifted for the first time in 2017/18 with victory over Berkhamsted in the final at Vauxhall Road.

Between 2005 and 2015 the club ran a successful Ladies' Team, which rose from the Beds and Herts League into the Eastern Region Womens League, reaching the Premier Division in 2013.

The under-18 side competes in the Southern Counties Floodlit Youth League. The team finished runners-up in their division in seasons 2010/11 and 2014/15, and in 2015/16 they reached the final of both the Brian Hitchings Cup and the Colwyn Cup, losing in both finals to Luton Town Cedars. Many players have made the step up from under-18 level to first team level, and those who have gone on to play much higher up the non-league pyramid include Charlie Gorman (Eastbourne Borough), Luke Warner-Eley (Royston Town, St Albans City) and Jonathan Lacey (Hemel Hempstead Town) who also represented the England non-league side in the Falklands while a Leverstock Green player.

The Pancake Lane ground has seen many improvements due to ever more stringent ground grading requirements. In 2007 the Peter Metcalfe changing rooms were built at a cost of £90,000. 2008 saw the refurbishment of the clubhouse to include new toilets and a new hospitality suite. In 2009 the concrete walkway was completed to cover three sides of the ground and a seated stand accommodating 113 spectators was installed.

Season 2018/19 was one of turmoil and sadness, as long-serving fixture secretary Graham Smart passed away suddenly only weeks after taking on the role of interim chairman. A season which promised so much at the start ended with the club only securing Premier Division safety on the final day.

Emma Smart took over as chairman for season 2019/20, and with a new management team and a new spirit of optimism the club was on course for a safe mid-table finish before the season was brought to a premature end by Covid-19. The management team of Matt Harding and Mick Vipond continues into the new 2020/21 season. The club has increased its commitment to youth development by joining the Eastern Junior Alliance and will be running an under-16 side this season.

Three club stalwarts have received awards from the Football Association and the Herts FA for 50 years service to football. The first was Jim Matthews, affectionately known as 'Macca', who passed away at the age of 90 in 2006. The second was Bill Dawes in 2014, and the third was long-serving club secretary Brian Barter in 2019. Brian stood down from his role as secretary in 2020, having twice been honoured with awards from the Spartan South Midland





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# THE LOWDOWN WITH: JAMES TOWELL

## **Disappointing to lose on Saturday?**

of course it was disappointing to lose and even more disappointing to lose at home, unfortunately we didn't take our chances and we got punished for it but that's football we have to take it on the chin and move on!

## **You've been at Town a long time now, what's been your favourite moment in a Red and White shirt?**

I've had lots of good moments in a town shirt, obviously the Eynesbury game away in the vase was unbelievable but on a incredible support once again, personal note probably Bradford away in the next round of the vase, to score and get two assists and help the team get to the quarter final was brilliant.

## **Despite the defeat, unbelievable to have the highest attendance in the country at Step 5 Saturday?**

incredible support once again, we're so lucky as players to have such a huge, loyal fan base here and we thank you all that come and support us home and away, you make a huge difference!!





# THE LOWDOWN WITH: JAMES TOWELL

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**On a personal note, you've been playing slightly 'out of position' of late, although not unfamiliar. How do you adapt your game to different positions?**

yeah I get bantered off a bit being called James Milner for my versatility but yeah I've been covering at right back for a few games while we've had a few defensive injuries, like you say not to unfamiliar for me I've played there in the past so I just do the best I can and look forward to getting unleashed back into midfield again.

**Finally, plenty of football still be played, with Tring up next tomorrow, looking to bounce back quickly in front of another big crowd?**

yes the game against tring can't come soon enough after a defeat, we look to come back strong and get back on track in the league, and what better way to do so with a local derby.

**That's the lowdown from Jimbo, who would you like to see next in Volume #6 of Town Talk?**

**Let us know on Twitter!**





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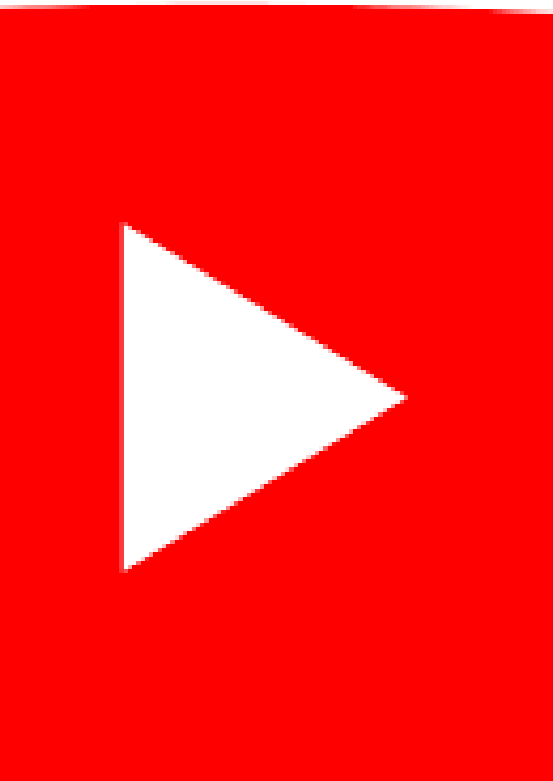




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# REPORT VS NEWPORT PAGNELL

Following a successful outing in Oxhey on Saturday, Leighton looked to make it two away wins on the bounce. This time at Newport pagnell's Willen road. A scrappy start to the game with Newport threatening early on eventually led to a breakthrough for the home side, a header at the back post from Smails , in the 21st minute. Minutes after Archie Mclelland saw a volley blocked by former Town centre half Kyle Davison Gordon, a positive reaction to going a goal down from Leighton. Newport again found themselves in a goal scoring position with a free kick in the 25th minute, that was saved by Brad Kirkwood. Newport's quality continued to show throughout the first half , with another former Town player in O'Brien firing over from range. Leighton's pressure in the last third is finally rewarded when Louie Collier fantastically ushers Davison Gordon into a tough position in his own area and nicks the ball off him, slotting it with a calm finish into the bottom right, 1-1, Game on at Willen road. The first 45 comes to an end and it is all to play for in what so far, hasn't been the prettiest of games for either side. The boys in red and white come out for the second half with purpose and an onslaught on the Newport goal ensues, including a dangerous Tom Silford free kick whipped in forcing a save from the 'keeper, with no chances coming to fruition however. Against the run of play Newport go back in front with a powerful free kick from the right side of the area in the 64th minute. The next 10 minutes Newport relentlessness showed and Leighton showed their defensive discipline once again, keeping the town in the game. With 15 minutes left on the clock the town bring on Ross Adams and Sonny Newbury-Barr in hope of an equaliser. A challenge in the 86th minute in the Newport half on Tom Silford left the full back down injured, after 10 minutes or so Silford was stretchered off, with Ben Pattie coming on in his place. Leighton continued to push for the equaliser, it looked as if it just was not our day. In the 90th minute, up steps Joe Fitzgerald. A missed opportunity from the town sets up a Newport counter-attack, Fitzgerald found himself with the the ball back, in his own half. Smashing it with all his might up the pitch, A silence spread as Willen road watched the ball go right over former town 'Keeper Tom Wyant's head and hit the back of the net. Joyous scenes from the players and the big away following. After a few more half chances for the town as well as brad preventing a winner for the home side with a brave save, the referee whistles for full-time. Another enthralling game! Next up is Leverstock Green at bell close this Saturday, 3 PM Kick off. Make sure to get there early as it's likely to be another sell-out!

Report by Ben Davage





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# UNDER 18 FIXTURES AND NEWS

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Our U18 side made their debut bow last season. After a rocky start, they picked up form and results in the turn of the new year, with wins against Luton Town Cedars and AFC Dunstable.

Managed by James Heeps with Coaching Staff James Setchell, Mick Zanetti and Deano.

## NEWS AND UPDATES

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### **WILL & ED HORNE GET 1ST TEAM MINUTES**

A big congratulations to U18 brothers, Will and Ed Horne, who played in Pre-Season for the 1st Team!

### **U18S WIN AT DUNSTABLE**

In their opening league game, our U18 side beat AFC Dunstable U18 2-1 at Creasey Park.

## NEXT FIXTURE

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### **OPPOSITION**

TBC

### **TIME & VENUE**

TBC

### **COMPETITION**

TBC





# Heads Up

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# SQUADS AND OFFICIALS

## **Your Town Squad:**

1. **Brad Kirkwood**
2. **Joe Fitzgerald**
3. **Tom Silford**
4. **Dave Murphy**
5. **Carl Resch**
6. **Aaron Jewell**
7. **Archie McClelland**
8. **Jordon Frederick (C)**
9. **Connor Calcutt**
10. **Louie Collier**
11. **James Towell**
12. **Ross Adams**
13. **Brian Foulger**
14. **Alex Condon**
15. **Ashton Campbell**
16. **Marcus Mealing**
17. **Ben Pattie**
18. **Alfie Osborne**
19. **George Boland**

## **Lev Green Squad:**

1. **Matt Fallon**
2. **Brima Johnson**
3. **Dan Weeks**
4. **Jamie Ovington**
5. **Mickey Shuttlewood**
6. **Steve Hawes**
7. **John Smith**
8. **Luke Peerless**
9. **Sidney Gueye**
10. **Oran Swales**
11. **Adiel Mannion**
12. **James Hall**
13. **Kian Wilkes**
14. **Guiseppe Delgaudio**
15. **Frank Jowle**
16. **Connor Church**
17. **Cass Grant**
18. **Will Bisney**

## **Today's Match Officials:**

**Sam Laidler, Jon Panconi, Michael Heavey**