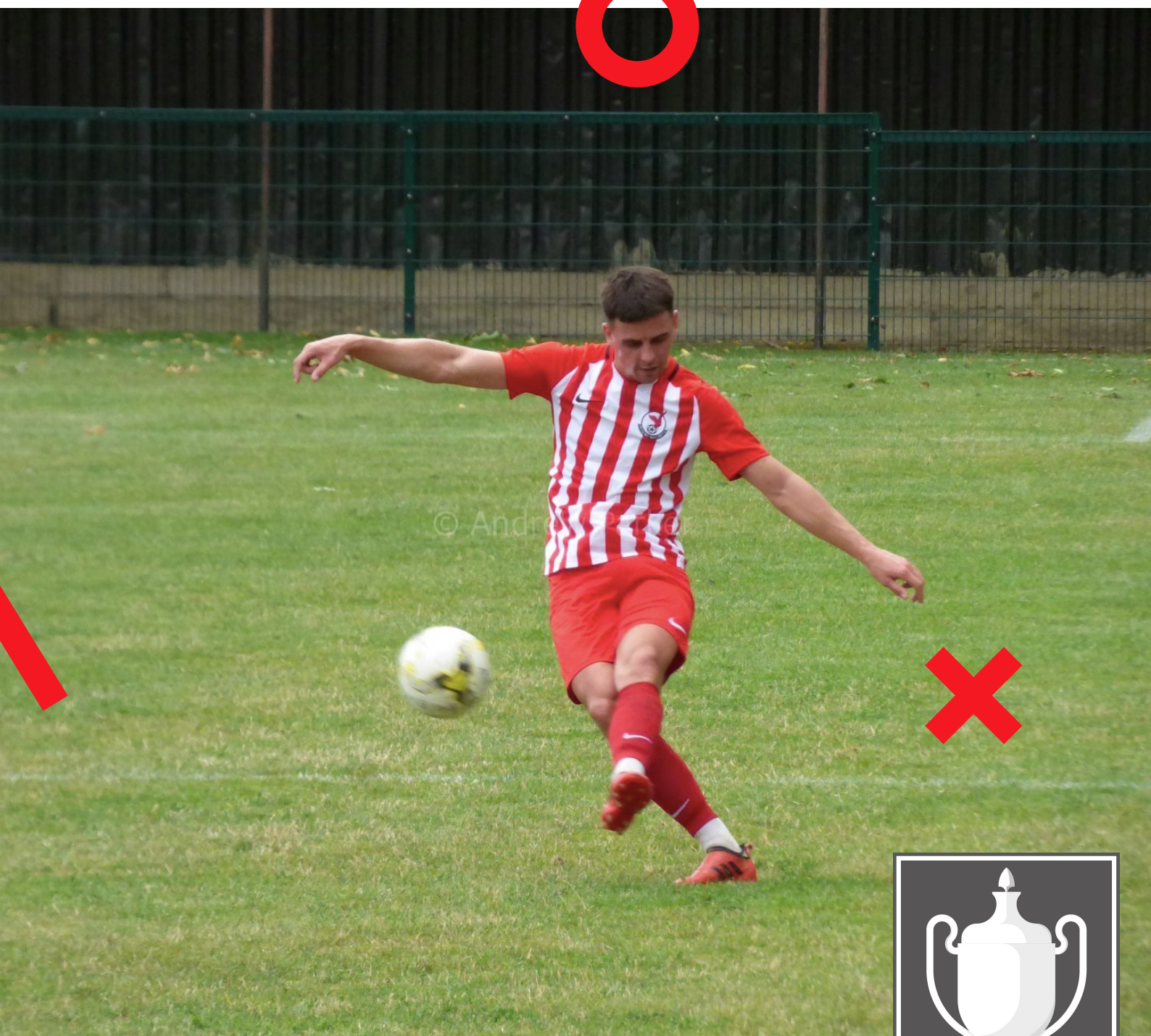


The Talk of the Town

Volume #3, Saturday 31st August



**Tickets: £6 Adults, £3 Concessions, £1 Under 16s
vs Bugbrooke St Michaels
Bell Close, LU7 1RX**



People at the Club

Chairman: Alan Penman

Vice Chairman: Steve Harris

Secretary: Roy Parker

Director of Football: Sean Downey

Treasurer: Steve Harris

Hall Hire: Pauline Parker

Match Photos: Andrew Parker

Match Reporter: Kieran Carvell

Programme Editor: Kieran Carvell

Kitman: Kieran Carvell

Groundsman: Bruce Warner

Do you want to help your local club?

Got involved and volunteer, a few hours a week could make all the difference!

Welcome to Bell Close

Hello everyone, welcome to this Saturday's match programme against Bugbrooke St Michaels.

First of all, we'd like to welcome everyone from Bugbrooke St Michaels to Bell Close.

Today's tie is an FA Vase clash, a big game for both cubs, with a potential trip to Wembley on the line!

On Tuesday, we are in FA Cup Replay action, when we host Thame United here at Bell Close.

We look forward to seeing you for that one, a massive game with a potential trip to Lowestoft Town on Saturday on the cards!

But, more importantly, we hope you enjoy today's game!

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, the 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.



The Visitors History

The club was established in 1929 and named after the village church. They joined the Central Northamptonshire Combination in 1952, and won the league without losing a match in 1968–69. They retained the title the following season and were champions again in 1971–72. They were relegated to Division One at the end of the 1974–75, but returned to the Premier Division in 1976, going on to be champions again in 1976–77 and 1985–86.

After finishing third in 1986–87, they moved up to Division One of the United Counties League. They won the Northamptonshire Junior Cup in 1989–90. After becoming Division One champions in 1998–99, the club were promoted to the Premier Division. However, they were relegated back to Division One at the end of the 2001–02 season after finishing second-from-bottom in the Premier Division. The club won the Northamptonshire Junior Cup again in 2011–12.



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THE FA VASE: A WEMBLEY DREAM

The Buildbase FA Vase is a competition of prestige. A final at Wembley for everyone to dream of. Every team dreams at the start of the season that it will be them. But, the truth is, 2 teams make it every year. It's not that much of an unrealistic dream. If you play in Step 5, the highest league of entry to the Vase, the dream can become reality. That does not mean to say the lower division sides don't have a chance, just less of a chance than a Step 5 team.

For me, watching last years Vase final at Wembley as part of Non-League Finals Day (which by the way is a fantastic day out), and watching Chertsey Town win it all, 3-1 after extra-time made me realise just how possible it is.

I dream of walking down Wembley Way with my mates, 'WE'VE CONQUERED ALL OF ENGLAND' in full voice. Or being in the Dressing Room, sorting the kit out, wandering out up the tunnel, capturing it all on the socials.

I dream of us winning, of players and staff legging it onto the Wembley turf towards the thousands of travelling Town fans.

Admittedly, and this goes for every team that enriches success in the Vase, the usual gate figures are much, much smaller on a normal home league game. But, just think of the number of supporters who would travel to the home of football in England, to see their local side compete in the biggest game of their history!

It's good to have dreams don't you think? Aspirations. Things to look forward to in life. Whether those dreams turn into reality is a different story. But, the beautiful game, it allows you to dream. It's what keeps fans going. Look at teams who have suffered turmoil off the pitch, but still dream and believe in a brighter future.

Can it happen? Yes! Manchester City, League One to Premier League Champions. Salford City, Step 8 to the Football League.

I know what you're thinking, that requires serious investment from people with an endless cash stream. So I raise you Bournemouth. Points Deduction in League Two, to the Premier League.

Dreams for Football Fans can come true and for teams at our level of football, it's what makes it all worth it. The hours spent volunteering. The blood. The sweat. The tears. One day out at Wembley. The Wembley Dream.

By Kieran Carvell.

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LU7 1RX**

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

The Sports Roundup



The Sports Roundup for the Leighton

Buzzard area with Kieran Carvell

Mondays 8pm

**A Sports Roundup for the Local Area,
covering all things Leighton Town and
Football in the area!**

**Tune in every Monday from 8PM, on
Leighton Buzz Radio!**

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LIONESSES



ENGLAND

V GERMANY

WEMBLEY
STADIUM

CONNECTED BY EE

SATURDAY 9 NOVEMBER 2019 — 5.30PM

TICKETS £15 ADULTS / £1 KIDS

THEFA.COM/TICKETS



Squads



1. Brad Kirkwood
2. Tom Bryant
3. Tom Silford
4. Dave Murphy
5. Kyle Davison-Gordon
6. Brian Foulger
7. Danny Webb
8. Jordan Fredericks
9. Aaron Murrell
10. James Towell
11. Ashton Campbell
12. Archie McClelland
13. Alfie Osborne
14. Michael Donkor
15. Kyle Faulkner
16. Ollie Buckley
17. Kuda Butawo
18. Luke Pyman

1. Antonio Aquilar Rohan
2. Calvin Green
3. Tom Caton
4. Jason Lee
5. Jamie Inwood
6. Dan Field
7. Jeff Bigley
8. Daniel Quigley
9. Jake Bettles
10. Michael Winch
11. Francis Boateng
12. Jamie Hall
13. Ashley Stewart
14. George Mitchell-Gears

Officials

Referee: Matthew Paluszkievicz.

Assistants: Julian Davis and Neil Lawrence.



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 extremely limited.

Food and Drink

