

The Talk of the Town

Volume #5, Saturday 28th September



Tickets: £6 Adults, £3 Concessions, £1 Under 16s
vs Colney Heath
Bell Close, LU7 1RX



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

Good Afternoon everyone and welcome to Bell Close, for today's SSML Premier Division fixture with Colney Heath. A very warm welcome to our visitors.

Our first home game since the start of the month when we welcomed Thame in an FA Cup Replay, but our first home league game since the opening day of the season!

Having not played a league game for 5 weeks until last Saturday, this is now our 3rd league fixture in 7 days.

Admittedly, it hasn't been the start we wanted in the league, however, there is still a long way to go in the league campaign and of course, we are still in the FA Vase, when we welcome Hadleigh United to Bell Close on the 12th of October.

Today, we would like to extend our warm welcome to our sponsors, as today is our 'Sponsors Day'. Your support is much appreciated by everyone at the football club.

The support for the football club in the last year or so has been fantastic. Our attendances continue to rise and we continue to be the most supported team in the league. 212 saw our FA Cup Replay with Thame and the atmosphere was brilliant and it made for a great evening under the lights. Our trip to Lowestoft in the FA Cup was a great day out, despite losing 2-0 and being reduced to 10 men. It was great to see a full coach and to see others travelling to Suffolk under their own steam.

Everyone at the club really appreciates the support of our supporters and it makes all the hard work worthwhile!

We hope you all and our Sponsors enjoy today's game and let's keep the fingers crossed for that first 3 points of the season! 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 “Magpies” were founded in 1907 and played their early football in the Hatfield District League and, after the 1st World War, joined the Mid Herts League, where the 3rd team played until recently. Earlier records indicate the winning of a Harcourt Cup but it is believed that this was Junior football some 18 months earlier, 1905-6. Success was a long time coming - 1935-36, and was disrupted by the 2nd World War. The golden era of football came from 1946 through to 1960 when the club won the Mid Herts Benevolent Shield twice, the Bingham Cox Cup, Division 1 and Premier Division titles. In 1952 the switch was made from Fuzzen Field to the Recreation Ground and into the Herts County League. Success continued with two Playing Fields Cups, the Aubrey Cup twice, Division 2, Division 1 and Premier titles. This culminated over the Easter weekend in 1960 with the Herts Intermediate Cup and Aubrey Cup double. The Reserve side also completed a double in 1958 winning both Cup and League. Odd trophies were picked up in the 60's 70's and 80's but these were pretty barren years on the field. Off the field, however, the club fought for permission to use its old clubhouse. This was secured with leases still running today, but in August 1988 while modernising the building, the club burnt down. Without a clubhouse, the Magpies, playing from a Portacabin, gained entry to the Premier Division. A new clubhouse was built in 1989 and an extension added in 1993, along with post and rails. Floodlights were erected in February 2000. The wish to play South Midlands football eluded the club with 3rd, 3rd, 4th, 4th finishes from 1994 - 1998, when second place would have been enough. Centenary Trophies back to back and another Aubrey Cup were won but the Herts County title only came in 1999/2000, when coming from 15 points behind in January to win by 10 points from rivals, Wormley. The club's ambition was to gain Premier Division status and with it FA Cup entry. Finishes of 5th 3rd 5th 6th and 5th were not enough in the initial seasons, despite numerous semi-final appearances and consecutive Charity Cup successes in seasons (2001/2 and 2002/3). The South Midland Reserve Challenge trophy was collected in 2004/5. The First Division title eventually came in 2005/6. With this came the Premier Division and the FA Cup. We are now in our 7th season and steadily improving picking up the Premier Division Cup in 2010/11 with a 2-0 win against Leverstock Green. Our FA Vase run of 2013/14 saw us to a 3rd round replay which we followed up by being thrown out of the competition in 2014/15 which was a troubled season with many managerial changes. Our main aim is still promotion along with the continuing of ground improvements to the fore and the allure of Step 4 football.



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

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

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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!**

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Squads



1. Kev Patel
2. Tom Bryant
3. Tom Silford
4. Dave Murphy
5. Michael Donkor
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. Ross Adams
15. Ben Pattie
16. Luke Pyman

1. Conor Samson
2. Danny May
3. Dominic Knaggs
4. Mickey Shuttlewood
5. Sam Doolan
6. Dan Fitzgerald
7. Jack Woods
8. Chris Griffin
9. Jon Clements
10. Spencer Clarke-Mardel
11. Chris Blunden
12. Callum Dudrenec
13. Harry Lewis
14. Daniel Westmore
15. George Devine
16. Harry Lewis

OFFICIALS

Referee: Phil Wilkinson.

Assistants: D. Baines and M. Mellor.

