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TOWN TALK

Volume #4

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VS BIGGLESWADE UNITED
SAT 10TH OCT, 3PM KO
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!

PAGE 11: THE LOWDOWN WITH BRIAN FOULGER

Leighton's finest, Brian Foulger, answers our questions ahead of today's tie!

PAGE 14: SUPPORTERS SAY WITH BEN DAVAGE

We catch up with our own YouTube 'star', Ben Davage.

TODAY'S TIE

OPPOSITION

Biggleswade United

TIME & VENUE

3PM, Saturday 10th October

COMPETITION

**Spartan South Midlands
Premier Division**



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

Secretary: Roy Parker

Photographer: Andrew Parker

Hall-Hire: Pauline Parker

Groundsman: Bruce Warner

Media: Kieran Carvell



A WORD FROM THE PRESS BOX

Welcome to Bell Close for this afternoon's SSML Premier Division clash between ourselves and Biggleswade United. A warm welcome to our visitors.

Today is our first home league game of the season! We've sold out both of our home FA Cup ties at Bell Close this season, so we hope you will be down this afternoon to cheer on the boys!

In today's programme, we have an interview with Leighton's own, Brian Foulger, as well as an interview with supporter and volunteer, Ben Davage.

Our fixture on Tuesday just gone against Eynesbury Rovers was postponed due to a waterlogged pitch. This will hopefully be re-arranged in due course.

The fixtures are coming thick and fast for us this October, Tring Athletic are our visitors this Tuesday, before we travel to Oxhey Jets and Newport Pagnell Town.

For a full fixture list, head to the Spartan South Midlands League on FA Full Time, or for very regular updates, head to our Twitter page, or Facebook page.

Finally, we would like to thank you for your brilliant support last week against Leiston FC. A sold-out Bell Close saw us exit the FA Cup in a very close fought game, with the score ending 2-1 to the visitors. The atmosphere was incredible throughout and we are very thankful for it.

One more thing, please make sure you respect social distancing throughout the tie and all measures we have in place. Remember your masks for the clubhouse and toilets.

Enjoy the game!



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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.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 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...





BIGGLESWADE UNITED HISTORY

Biggleswade United Football Club was re-formed on the 16th July 1959. However, local history records indicate that there was a Biggleswade United side playing at Second Meadow as early as 1929. Our first season (1959/60) saw us competing in Division Three of the North Herts. League (NHL). After 10 successful years in the NHL the club made the step up to South Midlands League (SML) football. But towards the end of a 15-year association with the SML the club began to struggle and after three years of finishing in the bottom three of Division One we sought fresh fields. The club joined the Herts. Senior but club continued to find the going tough. In 1986 we elected to return to local League football, joining the Bedford and District Football League and began to build again.

The appointment of Brian Swords as first team manager in 87/88 proved to be the turning point in the club's fortunes. During the next ten years the club achieved a tremendous amount of success on and off the football pitch. Our record of League and Cup honours speak for themselves but aligned to this a great deal of work went on behind the scenes to match the on-field success. The club now boasts one of the best clubhouse and ground facilities in the Mid-Bedfordshire area. The success of the club has also attracted many new players as well as commanding a great deal of loyalty from those players who helped the club progress from Division Three of the Bedford and District League to County Senior Club status in just 15 years.

The 1995/96 season was the most successful in the club's history - winning five major honours: the Beds Intermediate County Cup, Bedford and District League Championship, League Cup Championship and as the League's representatives the club won the Beds. FA Centenary Cup. Having won every major Bedford League honour the club felt it was time to move on and made the decision to make the step up once again and returned to Division One of the SML. In an exceptionally successful first season we celebrated a Division One "double" by winning the Championship and the Division One Cup. We also retained the Beds. FA Intermediate County Cup, only the second club in the competition's history to achieve this feat. To crown our success the club were awarded the SML Special Achievement Trophy in July 1997.

In the season 1997/98 we finally achieved Senior status. This was achieved not only through the endeavours of the players on the field but ultimately as a result of an extremely hard working committee. With the help of the Biggleswade Town Council a new stand was erected and perimeter fencing installed. And two seasons later the club erected floodlights and on the evening of 26th October 1999 we played our first-ever floodlit game at Second Meadow, Ryman League side Leighton Town were the visitors in the Bedfordshire Premier Cup.

The next eleven years saw the first team led by Steve "Snowy" Wright and under his management the club continued to enjoy a very high level of League and Cup success ultimately achieving promotion to the Molten Spartan South Midlands League Premier Division and with it the opportunity to compete in the FA Cup. And under Snowy the club made three Beds FA Senior Challenge Cup final appearances, winning two of the three with victories over Stotfold (4-1) and Leighton Town (1-0) but missed out in 2006/07 going down 2-0 to Dunstable Town. Snowy's other cup successes came in the form of the Hunts Premier Cup, North Beds Charity Cup, Hinchbrook Cup, the SML Division One Cup and the SML Special Achievement Award once again. The end of the 2006 2007 saw Snowy step down as manager with his assistant, Nick Burton taking over the first team reins. January 5th 2009 saw the club embark on further ambitious ground improvements. With financial backing from Biggleswade Town Council, Mid Beds District Council and the Football Foundation we installed a 260-seater stand, fully enclosed the ground with a double turnstile entrance and players' secure walkway which raised the ground to Grade E status.

After several years of stability in terms of first team managers the next six years saw a regular turnover of first team and reserve team managers with Nick Burton, Dave Elkin and Phil Childs all taking over the first team reins for a time.

At the start of the 2013 2014 season we appointed Mick Reardon and Mark Royal as first team managers both of whom had enjoyed success as coaches at the higher levels of football. Their disciplined approach was quickly adhered to and responded to by the players and under their stewardship we achieved the highest Premier Division position in nine years and first silverware in seven years winning the North Beds Charity Cup for the first time in the club's history.

In November 2014 the club took a further positive step to realise our ambitions with the appointment of Sky Sports Presenter and renowned author, Guillem Balague as Biggleswade United's Director of Football. Following Mick and Mark's decision to step down at the end 2014 2015, Guillem was quick to act and recruited a new Head Coach in Cristian Colas Beccera. Cristian was assisted by former professional player, Stuart Bimson, and under their guidance the team finished in eighth spot in the Premier Division in 2017 2018 - the highest position in the club's history. Having built a strong reputation for their outstanding coaching ability and playing philosophy Cristian and Stuart moved up to Step 3 level club, Staines Town, for the start of the 2018 2019 season. Guillem was again in search for a high quality coach and Jimmy Martin came highly recommended by his predecessor, Colas, who worked with Jimmy at Stevenage FC Academy. Jimmy was appointed Manager in May 2018 but he tendered his resignation in October 2018 having been offered a "hard to refuse" opportunity to take up a coaching role at Premier Division club Watford. Despite the setback the first team went on to record their highest ever League placing - a fourth spot in the Premier Division.

In the season 2019 2020 the club were sitting in a highly commendable third position in the Premier Division and under the management of Chris Devane and Trishnan Patel were hoping for a promotion play off opportunity. However, in March 2020 the season was declared Null and Void by the FA after the devastating outbreak of the Coronavirus. The club were also to learn that Chris and Trishnan had accepted the offer to work at Step 4 and departed the club at short notice. Fortunately the club were able to call upon the services of former Head Coach Cristian Colas and former assistant manager Mark Royal who will take over the first team reins for season 2020 2021 - whatever that may look like.

The club has certainly come a long way in relatively few years but we could not have done it without the help of a very supportive Town and District Council who clearly understand the benefits of having a community based club in Biggleswade. Our success is also very much down to a very hard working committee who throughout the year - not just the football season - continue to volunteer their time and commitment to the club, to help it continue to thrive and be a source of enjoyment for our supporters and the Biggleswade community.



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THE LOWDOWN WITH: BRIAN FOULGER

Disappointing to go out last Saturday, what did you make of the game?

Always gutted to get knocked out of the FA Cup. I thought we competed well, especially against a step 3 team.

I thought Second half we were on top, but unfortunately it just wasn't enough in the end.

In-front of a sold out Bell Close last week as well, does that atmosphere give you boys on the pitch a boost?

100%! The buzz around the ground always helps the whole team, If you are in the starting squad or coming off the bench! We appreciate the brilliant support we have week in week out.

You've been a regular in the side throughout Pre-Season and our Competitive games so far, have you been happy with your performances?

Always difficult to rate your own performances, there is always parts of my game I want to improve. At the minute the whole team is working well together, and I am happy to be a part of that.

I will say whenever I go into a game I always give 110%, try and win my personal battles and do what's best for the team!



THE LOWDOWN WITH: BRIAN FOULGER

First home League game tomorrow against Biggleswade United, what are you expecting from the game?

Obviously we are looking to get 3 points from the game. With it being at bell close it will give us that home advantage, so looking forward to it.

Finally, we're playing every Tuesday & Saturday for a few weeks, do you like a busy schedule?

Love it, football football football!!

That's the lowdown from Bri, who would you like to see next in Volume #5 of Town Talk?

Let us know on Twitter!



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SUPPORTERS SAY: BEN DAVAGE

A new programme segment sees a different Town supporter every week, answer a set of questions!

Q: When did you start following Town?

I went to my first game with my grandad when I was probably about 4 or 5. Since then, I've gone on and off but over the last 2 seasons I've rarely missed a game.

Q: What made you want to become involved with the club and build up a YouTube channel?

I just love Leighton Town, the club has such a special atmosphere around it that I've never seen anywhere else at this level. The board, the players, the fans all have such a unique relationship that makes it an amazing club to be a part of.

Q: Favourite moment from last season?

Has to be Eynesbury Away, Nothing comes close to Ashton latching on to that ball in the last minute, obscene scenes!

Q: What are you looking forward to most this season?

Another lengthy Vase run, hopefully get some interesting draws in some new grounds around the country. Oh, and of course, a challenge at the league...

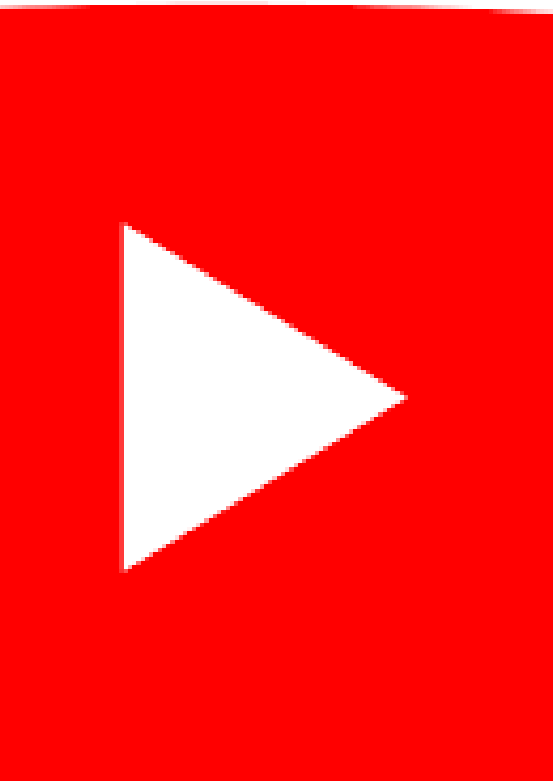
Q: Score Prediction for this evening?

3-0 Leighton!



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**Pre-Season
Highlights from
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Thame!**



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Close - Check out our
latest video from our
players and staff
about how to stay
safe at Bell Close!**



FOOTBALL



UPCOMING FIXTURES

Here's who your Town are
facing in the coming weeks!

Tring Athletic (H)
Tue 13th Oct
Bell Close

Oxhey Jets (A)
Sat 17th Oct
Boundary Stad.

N'P' Town (A)
Tue 20th Oct
Willen Road



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REPORT VS LEISTON FC

Leighton Town's FA Cup run came to an end on Saturday, after a 2-1 defeat at a sold out Bell Close, against Step 3, Leiston FC.

The game started quickly for the visitors, as the Blues won an early penalty, when Brad Kirkwood was adjudged to have fouled Liam Jackson, although the striker appeared to have been in an offside position.

Jackson himself got up and dispatched the penalty in-front of a noisy Shed End!

Just eight minutes later with Leighton struggling to get off to an early start that saw them play so well against Mildenhall and Crawley Green, Leiston doubled their advantage. Will Davies bundles the ball home after a low ball across from the first goal scorer, Jackson.

With Town already finding themselves two goals down, they looked to get back into the game. They did just that on 28 minutes, when Archie McClelland, whilst on the floor, managed to strike the ball into the bottom corner! Very clever work from McClelland, who pulled Town back into the contest.

Louie Collier had a half-chance before half-time, but it was 1-2 at the break.

The second half was scrappy once more, however, Town did find themselves comfortably on top for the remainder of the tie, despite the visitors hitting the woodwork midway through the half. It was a constant barrage of corners, free-kicks and half-chances for Town, however, they couldn't find a way through the Leiston rear-guard, who defended admirably throughout.

Town continued to press, but Leiston would not be moved and the latter marched on in the world's biggest cup competition!



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UNDER 18 FIXTURES AND NEWS

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

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

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**

B'wade United Squad:

1. **Ollie Leslie**
2. **Milo Keane**
3. **Ross Taylor**
4. **Jaiden Irish**
5. **Jordan Wright (C)**
6. **Jordan Jarrold**
7. **Dom Morgillo**
8. **Gareth Hunt**
9. **Charlie Clayton**
10. **Charlie Black**
11. **Dave Parkinson**
12. **Nyasha Sagwete**
13. **George Harlow**
14. **Codi-Lee Spavins**
15. **Maurice Ali-Hassan**
16. **Ethan Flanagan**
17. **Charima Agyemang**
18. **Nacho Novo**

Today's Match Officials:

Fadi Mansour, Zach Trundell, Lee Randall