

The Talk of the Town

Volume #13, Tuesday 12th November



**Tickets: £6 Adults, £3 Concessions, £1 Under 16s
vs Crawley Green
Bell Close, LU7 1RX
SSML 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

Reports, Programmes, Kitman, Media:

Kieran Carvell

Hall Hire: Pauline Parker

Groundsman: Bruce Warner



A word from the Press Box

Welcome to Bell Close, for today's SSML Premier Division game with Crawley Green, welcome to our visitors also.

Another win on Saturday, a 4-2 win over Edgware Town in front of a great crowd of 134, who braved the horrible weather to cheer on the boys in red.

Thank you for your support!

We hope to see you all again this evening, for what promises to be a very entertaining encounter.

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 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.



A DATE FOR YOUR DIARIES



THE BUILDBASE FA VASE THIRD ROUND

LEIGHTON TOWN V EASTBOURNE TOWN

Saturday 30th November, Bell Close, LU7 1RX
#YourTownYourTeam

THE THIRD ROUND...
WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!
TELL YOUR FRIENDS...
IT'S YOUR TOWN, IT'S YOUR TEAM!



VISITORS HISTORY

Crawley Green Sports & Social Club was formed in November 1989 after arsonists caused the virtual destruction of the present building. Members of Stopsley Harriers, The Wyvern and Ramridge Rangers Sunday Football Clubs amalgamated to form the present club and were successful in securing a 99 year lease from the Council. The New Club house was formally open on 19th June, 1992 by then Luton Town manager, David Pleat. The badge incorporates all the elements of the three founding clubs but also local history. The club badge was adopted in 1996 after many years of discussion. Maroon was the colour of the largest single club Ramridge Rangers and it was adopted as the club colour. It is incorporated in the Club badge as the bar across the middle. Stopsley Harriers were well known for their red and blue quarters, whilst Wyvern Members were predominantly blue since their foundation. Both these colours are reflected in the badge. Crawley Green FC Saturday side was formed in 1993 after another local team, Somerset Tavern came under the Crawley Green umbrella. The club colour of maroon was adopted by the team. In 2018 Luton Town FC and Crawley Green FC further enhanced their club partnership with the announcement that Crawley Green FC will play their home games at The Brache training ground from season 2018-2019. Crawley Green, who are the only Luton based team to play at step 5 or above of the National League System, have been trying since 2008 to get permission to build a suitable stadium. Unfortunately in that time they have failed to receive the support needed from Luton Borough Council, despite there being no cost involved for the Council. This decision has meant that they have had to ground share with Barton Rovers FC for 11 years now, to enable the team to continue to play at that level. This is a poor indictment of the Council's attitude to football in Luton, considering that other major towns in Bedfordshire have at least one team each playing step 6 or above. Their lack of support in comparison to the likes of Biggleswade (3 teams), Bedford (2 teams), Dunstable (2 teams), Leighton Buzzard (1 team) and Kempston (1 team), means that even our local leagues have the ignominy of having to travel to local villages to host their cup finals. Luton recently installed a brand new all-weather surface down at the training ground and to comply with national ground grading criteria Crawley Green will complete the remaining requirements. This will include new changing rooms, dugouts, turnstile and spectator standing area. Tony Talbot, Chairman of Crawley Green stated: "We would like to thank Gary Sweet and Kevan Platt and everyone at Luton Town FC for firstly affording us this opportunity and then their support in making this happen. "In the past we have seen a number of ex-Crawley Green players go on to play for Luton, but our partnership has really continued to grow in recent years. It's with great satisfaction for us that we are currently seeing James Justin starring for the first team. In addition the recently transferred Tyreeq Bakinson and four of the current U18s team, Josh Neufville, Joe Mead, Ciaren Jones and Michael Shamalo all came through our youth system. "A town the size of Luton needs a successful professional club, as well as teams playing in the national league pyramid". This gives our talented youngsters a pathway to development, without having to go outside the borough to develop. "In addition, underneath these clubs is a large community hub, which affords lots of youngsters the opportunity to play football. These community hubs ensure all young people have the opportunity to participate in football in a safe supportive environment, which preserves the dignity and respect of the individual regardless of age, gender, sexual orientation, ethnic origin, religion, disability, income and any other social deprivation. With Government statistics showing a concerning rise in childhood obesity throughout the UK, these community hubs encourage our children to stay active and engage in physical activity. This all helps promote health, self-confidence and importantly social cohesion, and hopefully leads to the wider benefits in raising standards." Hatters chief executive Gary Sweet said: "We see ourselves as guardians of elite football in our region and part of that responsibility is to help – wherever possible – other local, aspirational clubs develop and thrive, staying at the core of their roots. "The challenges faced at Crawley Green were difficult and, with the great relationship we've had over the years, having recruited numerous young players from their excellent development structure, we're proud to help Crawley Green retain a local home for their competitive games, just as we are happy to utilise our existing training facility at perhaps the only time when it won't get used." In recognition of his services to the community and sport, Crawley Green Sports & Social Club Chairman, Tony Talbot was awarded a BEM – British Empire Medal - in the 2018 New Year's Honours List.



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.



Our Sponsors

Our Sponsors for this year:

R P Brightman

Osborne Morris & Morgan

Leighton Buzzard Dry Lining and Suspended
Ceiling

Gracechurch Wealth Management

Buttle PLC

Jackson and Phillips

S B Mills

L F Carpentry

Bolster Construction

Buzzard Fascias and Fittings

Interested in Sponsoring your local team? Get in
contact with us!



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Leighton Town
Football Club

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INJURY TRUSTS



PERSONAL
INJURY



COURT OF
PROTECTION



CONVEYANCING



BEFORE YOU CURSE

MIND YOUR LANGUAGE

Respect



STAY UP TO DATE, FOLLOW US!



@LeightonTownFC



Leighton Town FC
Official



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#YourTownYourTeam

TOWN PARTNERS WITH ODDBALLS

We've partnered up with charity, OddBalls, to help raise awareness of Testicular Cancer.

We've come together and had made Leighton Town customised OddBalls beanie hats!

They are £10 from behind the bar. £5 of each hat goes straight to OddBalls to help to continue raising awareness.

All Hats are in one size.

Numbers are limited! Don't miss out, get one from behind the bar this Saturday!

(We also have Club Ties available at £15 each).



CHRISTMAS FUN!

YOU ARE INVITED TO

Leighton Town FC

Christmas Party

21st December

7pm - Midnight

M G SOUNDS DJ, DISCO

FREE ADMISSION





BOOK YOUR PARTY WITH US



**HALL HIRE AT LEIGHTON TOWN FC BELL CLOSE LAKE ST
LEIGHTON BUZZARD
LU7 1RX**

**21st, 30th, 40th & ANY OTHER SPECIAL BIRTHDAYS
CHRISTENINGS.....ENGAGEMENTS....RETIREMENT
WORK DO's....END OF SEASON FUNCTIONS
SUITABLE FOR ALL OCCASIONS**

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

THE TABLE

POS		P	W	D	L	GD	PTS
1	Tring Athletic	15	12	0	3	30	36
2	Newport Pagnell Town	14	9	3	2	22	30
3	Colney Heath	11	10	0	1	20	30
4	Biggleswade United	15	9	1	5	8	28
5	Harpenden Town	15	8	3	4	7	27
6	Oxhey Jets	13	7	4	2	5	25
7	Crawley Green	14	7	3	4	13	24
8	Broadfields United	15	7	1	7	-15	22
9	Eynesbury Rovers	12	6	3	3	11	21
10	Leverstock Green	14	6	2	6	-6	20
11	Harefield United	11	6	1	4	7	19
12	Dunstable Town	12	4	2	6	-8	14
13	Potton United	15	4	2	9	-15	14
14	Leighton Town	12	4	1	7	5	13
15	Aylesbury Vale Dynamos	9	4	1	4	0	13
16	Arlesey Town	14	2	8	4	-1	11 *
17	London Colney	12	3	1	8	-17	10
18	Edgware Town	14	3	1	10	-18	10
19	Wembley	10	2	3	5	-4	9
20	Baldock Town	12	2	1	9	-15	7
21	North Greenford United	13	0	1	12	-29	1



FIXTURES

PREM	16/11/19	15:00	Tring Athletic	Leighton Town	The Grass Roots Stadium
PREM	19/11/19	19:45	Leighton Town	Eynesbury Rovers	LEIGHTON BUZZARD SPORTS ASSOCIATION LTD
PREM	23/11/19	15:00	Leighton Town	Harefield United	LEIGHTON BUZZARD SPORTS ASSOCIATION LTD
PREM	26/11/19	19:45	Leighton Town	Potton United	LEIGHTON BUZZARD SPORTS ASSOCIATION LTD
PREM	07/12/19	15:00	Leighton Town	Biggleswade United	LEIGHTON BUZZARD SPORTS ASSOCIATION LTD
PREM	10/12/19	19:45	London Colney	Leighton Town	LONDON COLNEY FC
PREM	14/12/19	15:00	Baldock Town	Leighton Town	ARLESEY TOWN FC
PREM	21/12/19	15:00	Leighton Town	Arlesey Town	LEIGHTON BUZZARD SPORTS ASSOCIATION LTD
PREM	28/12/19	15:00	Dunstable Town	Leighton Town	CREASEY PARK



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!**

Download the App:

LB Radio on the AppStore

Leighton Buzz Radio on GooglePlay



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. Josh Setchell
14. Kuda Butawo
15. Les Barker
16. Anthony Leslie
17. Michael Donkor
18. Luke Pyman

1. George Rose
2. Michael Draycott
3. Mark Bunker
4. Chris Crook
5. Sam MacClelland
6. Aaron Morgan
7. Adam Marsh
8. Tyler Ingham
9. Sam Holmes
10. Phil Draycott
11. Billy Lobjoit
12. Reece Green
13. James Younger
14. Oluwanimilo
Ajigbolamu
15. Spencer O'Leary
16. Liam McGovern
17. Sam Pemberton

OFFICIALS

Referee: Douglas Lawson.

**Assistants: Peter Kwak and Paul
O'Hare.**

