

# The Talk of the Town

Volume #22, Saturday 22nd February



**Tickets: £6 Adults, £3 Concessions, £1 Under 16s  
vs Baldock Town  
Bell Close, LU7 1RX  
Spartan South Midlands 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

Media: Kieran Carvell

Hall Hire: Pauline Parker

Groundsman: Bruce Warner



# A word from the Press Box

Good afternoon everyone and welcome to Bell Close, for today's Spartan South Midlands Premier Division clash between ourselves and Baldock Town. A warm welcome to everyone involved with the visitors today.

Baldock and ourselves are currently the 2 form teams in the division. Baldock have lost just once in their last 10 league games, whilst we boast an impressive run of 14 league games unbeaten and just 1 defeat in 3 months (all comps).

It promises to be quite the encounter this afternoon, so make sure you get behind the boys.

Your support on Tuesday against Tring was fantastic!

203 of you witnessed quite the turnaround, after we found ourselves trailing 2-0 at half-time. A Webby brace and a spectacular finish from Arch saw us secure a league double over our local rivals!

FA Vase news! Our tie against Corinthian is now only 1 week away! Coach tickets are on sale from the club at today's game. £10 each, with the coach departing Bell Close at 11:45AM. Make sure you secure your seats to avoid missing out!



# 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, a 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 MASSIVE GAME FOR OUR FOOTBALL CLUB!**



## **THE BUILDBASE FA VASE QUARTER FINAL**

**CORINTHIAN V LEIGHTON TOWN**

**Sat 29th Feb, 3PM, Gay Dawn Farm, DA3 8LY  
TWO ROUNDS FROM WEMBLEY!**

# **JOIN US IN KENT! WE NEED YOU AND YOUR BRILLIANT SUPPORT!**

# 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:

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Interested in Sponsoring your local team? Get in  
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# FIXTURES

## **Wembley FC (A)**

### **League**

Tue 25th Feb, 19:45 KO

Vale Farm HA0 3HG



## **Corinthian FC (A)**

### **FA Vase Quarter Final**

Sat 29th Feb, 15:00 KO

Gay Dawn Farm DA3 8LY

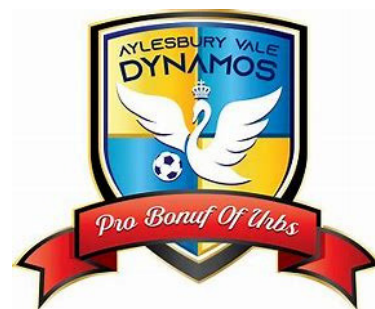


## **Aylesbury Vale Dynamos (A)**

### **League**

Tue 3rd Mar, 19:45 KO

Haywood Way HP19 9WZ



# **STAY UP TO DATE, FOLLOW US!**



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Leighton Town FC  
Official



@leightontownfc

## **#YourTownYourTeam**





# THE BUILDBASE FA VASE QUARTER FINAL

**CORINTHIAN V LEIGHTON TOWN**

Sat 29th Feb, 3PM, Gay Dawn Farm, DA3 8LY  
TWO ROUNDS FROM WEMBLEY!

**Coach Tickets on Sale at the club at  
today's game and on Wednesday  
(7:30-9PM).**

**£10 each, departing at 11:45AM!**



# REPORT vs Tring

Town returned to league action, 2 weeks after back to back wins over the Colney's.

This time, Tring came to Town, who currently occupy 2nd in the Division, despite some changes to their team and staff.

A local rivalry that has produced some special moments in the last couple of seasons and Town added to those special moments with an enthralling comeback!

It was a good start in the opening exchanges for Town, with Pattie having an ambitious go from range and McClelland causing some problems on the right.

However, a youthful Tring side continued to ramp up the pressure, with the backline of Baird, Resch, Donkor and Silford having shots to block and crosses to deal with.

Dan Benney was called into action for the first time of the game when he had to gather a low drive.

Town regained some domination midway through the half, with Pattie's rasping drive testing the keeper and McClelland's speculative volley going just wide.

However, Tring got back into the tie and started causing Town far too many problems. They took the lead on 35 minutes, when Prince Nimoh opened up his body and fired into the far corner from the edge of the area. A good finish, to put the visitors ahead.

Tring continued to charge forward and Benney had to make a smart stop.

Then, just before the break, Tring went and made it 2. An inviting free kick into the area was attacked by a free man and he nodded it past Benney and into the far post.

With Town down 2-0 at home, changes were bound to come. Danny Webb and James Towell replaced Alfie Osborne and Sonny Newbury-Barr.

The second half started much better for Town and they began to dominate.

McClelland went close on 50 minutes, but he couldn't quite get the ball out of his feet to get a good strike away.

Shortly after, Town had the ball in the net after it was bundled in from a corner. However, somehow one of Town's players was adjudged to be offside.

On 61 minutes, Town were back in the tie though. The two substitutes combined when Towell picked out Webb on the right hand side. Webb cut through two defenders before firing at goal. It took a slight deflection, but it went into the back of the net. 1-2.

Town continued to dominate and had a good run of set pieces. But, on the 66th minute, they got back on level terms!

It was Town's main man again, Danny Webb. He was sent through on goal and rounded the keeper with ease before slotting home! 2-2!

With 2 goals in 5 minutes, Town looked rampant and were dominating the tie. It was only a matter of time before the comeback was complete...

And it was on 70 minutes! Webb involved in the action again when he picked out Archie McClelland on the right of the box.

McClelland got the ball out of his feet and volleyed it home into the top right corner! A great strike, to complete a 9 minute comeback for the boys in red and white!

Town continued to snuff out any danger, with the backline working together more cohesively.

Webb tried his luck on 2 separate occasions, but couldn't find the target.

Ben Pattie was replaced on 75 minutes. On came Louie Collier for his Town debut, against his former club.

Town looked to see out the game and as the game entered added time, Kieran Turner did well to keep it in the corner and not allow the visitors any chances to break and score.

And that was all the action for one evening at Bell Close. A fantastic comeback over Town's local rivals as they look to climb the league table, with 18 league games still to play!

Great support to, with 203 out in force on a Tuesday evening!





# **BOOK YOUR PARTY WITH US**



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

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SUITABLE FOR ALL OCCASIONS**

**TO CHECK AVAILABILITY EMAIL  
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# The Table!

POS		P	W	D	L	GD	PTS
1	Colney Heath	27	21	1	5	40	64
2	Tring Athletic	28	19	2	7	48	59
3	Biggleswade United	27	15	5	7	21	50
4	Newport Pagnell Town	26	12	9	5	24	45
5	Harpenden Town	26	13	4	9	8	43
6	Edgware Town	30	12	5	13	-8	41
7	Crawley Green	30	10	10	10	9	40
8	Oxhey Jets	25	11	7	7	0	40
9	Leighton Town	22	12	3	7	19	36 *
10	Eynesbury Rovers	25	10	6	9	9	36
11	Baldock Town	26	11	3	12	-6	36
12	Leverstock Green	26	11	2	13	-17	35
13	Harefield United	23	8	5	10	-1	29
14	Aylesbury Vale Dynamos	24	8	5	11	-14	29
15	Potton United	26	8	5	13	-16	29
16	Dunstable Town	25	8	4	13	-13	28
17	Wembley	25	6	9	10	-6	27
18	Broadfields United	24	7	5	12	-24	26
19	Arlesey Town	25	5	11	9	-7	23 *
20	North Greenford United	23	5	4	14	-26	19
21	London Colney	25	3	3	19	-40	12

**We still have an astonishing 18 league games to play this season!**

# The Tea Bar Menu

WE DO  
OUTSIDE



SAUSAGE BAP	£2.50
BACON BAP	£2.50
BURGER	£3.00
CHESBURGER	£3.50 <del>£4.00</del>
CHICKEN WRAP	£3.50
SAUSAGE ROLL	£1.50
PASTY- VARIOUS	£2.50
TEA / COFFEE	£1.00
HOT CHOCOLATE	£1.50
BOVRIL	£1.00
SPECIALS : CHICKEN CURRY + RICE	£5.00



TODAYS PASTIES  
CHEESE + ONION  
CHICKEN CURRY  
CHICKEN + VEG

VICTORIA SPONGE £1.20  
CHOCOLATE CAKE £1.50  
SAUCE



# U18s Next Fixture

SOUTHERN COUNTIES FLOODLIT YOUTH LEAGUE

THURSDAY 27TH FEBRUARY



LEIGHTON TOWN

19:45

AFC DUNSTABLE

BELL CLOSE LAKE ST LU7 1RX

# Entry is just £1!



# 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. Alex Condon
14. Kieran Turner
15. Luke Pyman
16. Louie Collier
17. Michael Donkor
18. Ross Adams

1. Ben Burton
2. Alex Coppin
3. Jay Duguid
4. Mohamed Elmasry
5. Josh Furness
6. Aedan Gaffney
7. Charlie Joy
8. Dylan Logan
9. Charlie Thake
10. Charlie Rome
11. William McClelland
12. Charlie Gould
13. Scott Piggott
14. Lewis Sinclair

**Today's Officials:**

**Stephen Bates, Mark Mellor, Paul O'Hare**