

The Talk of the Town

Volume #6, Tuesday 1st October



**Tickets: £6 Adults, £3 Concessions, £1 Under 16s
vs Oxhey Jets
Bell Close, LU7 1RX
Premier Division Cup**



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

Welcome to this evenings Premier Division cup tie with Oxhey Jets, a very warm welcome to the visitors.

A defeat on Saturday in front of a good crowd of 170 saw us once again without a league win, but, not a bad performance, despite another red card. We remain the best supported team in the league with an improvement on our opening day of the season attendance.

Tonight's game should be an entertaining one, with the Jets involved in that infamous win over Wembley a couple of weeks back.

We hope you enjoy the game this evening.



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 current General Manager John Elliott founded Oxhey Jets in 1972. Playing their first season as an under 12 team in the South West Herts Youth League, having been playing friendly matches as the 2nd Oxhey Boys Brigade team for two years before that. A winning start in the League cup final on the last game of the season saw the club move on, and more youth sides were added to the clubs structure, with the original side moving up through the age groups. In the 1978-79 season the team having out grown youth football moved to the Watford and District men's Saturday league, and at the first attempt won the Division one championship without dropping a point, this prompted an application to the Hertfordshire Senior County League, which was turned down because their home ground was an open playing fields. We instead went into the West Herts Saturday league, and started to prepare the old school pitch at the Chilwell Gardens site ready for another application to join the County League. Chilwell was ready for use and the runners up spot was secured with Three matches to spare, and became the first Oxhey side in history to win The Watford Peace Memorial Shield. The Herts Senior County League was increased in size and Oxhey were elected into Division one in 1981 and were promoted to the Premier division in 1983. The Biggest change to happen to the club was in the 2000-2001 season having moved from their old Chilwell Gardens site, to a new Two million pound complex in Altham Way (using Met Police Bushey for a season), Jets new ground; "The Boundary Stadium" was built to almost Ryman's League standard. While the ground was being built, the First team secured their highest ever Honour, Premier Division Champions of the Hertfordshire Senior County League, and the reserves finished Champions as well. This was to be the start of the best run the club, and County had ever seen. The following season the first team retained the Championship, while becoming the first team to add the prestigious Aubrey cup and the Hertfordshire Senior Charity County Cup in the same season, the Reserves also retained the championship and added the reserve cup as well to become another first in the County league, winning the double-double. 2002-03 saw the records come tumbling again as all were retained by the first and reserves and the Rickmansworth Charity cup was added to the haul on Easter Monday by the first team for the first time, giving the clean sweep. 2003-04 started with only one aim, promotion to the Minerva South Midlands league, with all the ground improvements complete, the team needed to do the job one more time, as this time the application for the much earned promotion would be made. This aim has been achieved as the First team secured a top two place. They also won the Rickmansworth charity cup again and were Winners of the Highly Prestigious St Mary's Cup. The Reserves retained the World Class Homes Reserve Division one Championship and won the Minerva South Midlands Reserve Floodlight Cup at the first attempt beating holders Dunstable in the final. The 4th team finished R/up in the West Herts League Div 2 and the Sunday team crowned a great season by winning the Marathon Sunday Leagues Charity Cup and were runners up in the League. 2004-05 Season was beyond anybody's dream in the club, the first team winning a treble trophy season. The Minerva Division one Championship was won at the first attempt, winning the division by seven points clear, this was added to the Hertfordshire Centenary Trophy that had been won at The Letchworth County ground in April, beating Hatfield Town 2-0. The triple was sealed in the last game of the season, beating Tring Athletic in the Minerva Floodlight cup final on penalties after a 0-0 at game. The division one-cup final was lost to Biggleswade. The 2005-06 season, our first in the premier division, saw us finish in 13th place. We entered the FA Cup for the first time and reached the semi-final of the Herts FA Senior Challenge Cup where we lost to Bishop's Stortford in extra time. Our path to the semi-final gave us our first ever fixture against football league opposition when we met Barnet at home. Our 2 - 1 victory was watched by a club record crowd of 257, an event that was marked by a presentation to the club, from Barnet, to commemorate the occasion. The 2006-07 season was without doubt the Club's best ever season, finishing 7th in the Premier Division and reaching the Premier Division cup final where we lost to Edgware Town by the only goal of a closely fought cup tie. The highlight of the season was in the FA Cup when we visited AFC Wimbledon in the second qualifying round, where despite defeat we all spent an unforgettable day. In the FA Vase we reached the third round proper where we lost at Ipswich Wanderers. Our giant killing act continued in the Herts Senior Challenge Cup when we defeated St. Albans City by 4 goals to 1 before losing, in the next round, to Borehamwood in extra time, after drawing 1 - 1 at the end of normal time. The 2007-08 season was a difficult one for the Club due to the long term injuries suffered by many of the key players. We finished in 19th position in the league and lost to Welwyn Garden City in the Herts FA Charity Shield semi-final. We did however reach the final of the St. Mary's Cup where we were soundly beaten 5 - 1 by Hemel Hempstead Town from the BGB Football League.



The Visitors History

The 2008 – 09 season saw us finish in 13th position in the league and we reached the final of the South Midlands Floodlight Cup where we lost by 2 goals to 1 to Royston Town. Our Reserve team finished as champions of Reserve Division 1 which they won by 9 clear points. The Club reached two County Finals during the 2009-10 season. The first being the Intermediate Cup, where the Reserves were beaten 3 – 0 by Hemel Hempstead Town Reserves. Our second visit to The County Ground saw us win the Charity Shield, for the first time, beating St Margaretsbury, by 4 goals to 2. In the League our reserve team retained the Reserve Division 1 title and the first team finished a very creditable 11th following a poor start to the season. We again reached the St. Mary's cup final, finishing once more as runners-up to Hemel Hempstead Town. The 2010-11 season saw us finish in 19th position, which equalled our worst ever position since joining the league. Our reserves finished as runners-up, losing the league title, which they had held for two years, on the last day of the season. We needed a victory at Crawley Green, but we could only draw with, what was their first team, and Hadley beat us to the title. During the 2011-12 season, as we approached the club's 40th anniversary, we were once again a successful cup team despite our lowly 17th position finish in the premier division. We were only the second South Midlands side to reach the Herts Senior Challenge Cup Final where we met and were well beaten by Bishops Stortford. Our second county final saw us beat Kings Langley in the Herts FA Charity Shield to lift the title for the second time in the last three seasons. Our third cup final was The St Mary's Cup where we again met Hemel Hempstead Town, and the only goal of the game from Andrew Lomas secured victory for us over our old rivals in this competition. During the season we broke our club attendance when a total of 376 supporters watched as we were narrowly beaten by Hendon by 2 goals to 1 in the FA Cup. The 2012-13 season was the clubs most successful league season. Due to the worst weather for many years we finished the last few weeks of the season playing 3 matches each week and the runners-up spot was lost on the last day of the season. We finished in 3rd position behind Aylesbury United and Dunstable Town, who completed the season without losing a league fixture. We retained the Herts FA Charity Shield defeating Hertford Town 4 – 0 in the final, and the last match of the season in mid May saw us beat Cockfosters to win the South Midlands Floodlight Cup. In Her Majesty the Queens 2013 birthday honours list the club founder John Elliott was awarded the British Empire Medal for services to young people and the community in South Oxhey. This was a great and much deserved reward for over 40 years of hard work creating and managing Oxhey Jets Football Club. The start of the 2013-14 season was a difficult one for the Club as we found out that all except three of last season's team had decided to move to other clubs. With just two weeks to kick off Wayne Gladdy was appointed as manager to try and put a team together. At the end of January with just 20 points gained, Wayne started to recruit new players and from then on we only lost one league match which secured our status for the new season, which under the circumstances was a fantastic achievement. We also reached the final of the St Mary's Cup where we beat Leverstock Green 3 – 2. Our reserves finished as runners-up in the Herts FA Intermediate Cup and our Academy team were winners of the Allied Counties East Division. The 2014-15 season saw us continue building for the future under our manager Wayne Gladdy and we finished mid table in 12th position with 57 points. Our Third team, consisting of our most senior players, reached two cup finals run by the West Herts Saturday league but unfortunately finished as runners-up in both. After two managerial changes at the start of the 2015-16 campaign we found ourselves in a relegation battle during the second half of the season. Bob Wyatt took over the reins and following many new signings a more settled side was found for the last two months and a 17th position was achieved. The re-building will continue next season. Our Academy provides a source of new talent and several members have played at both reserve and first team levels during the season. Our Vets team reached the Webster cup final and finished runners-up losing to the only goal of the game. The 2016-17 season saw us continue the rebuilding process under manager Lee Stedman and a 15th position with a points total of 49 was achieved. Our final run in saw us lose just one of our last eight league fixtures and we were awarded team of the month for April. Our Vets team for the third year running reached the Webster cup final and again finished as runners-up. They did however finish as Division 1 champions beating their closest rivals The Engineer in the last match of the season. The 2017 – 18 season saw us struggling to achieve a mid -table finish and with just a few matches left to play we were in a relegation position. With the help of new managers Tim O'Sullivan and Pat Fallon we won our last two fixtures and secured our premier division status. We now look forward to the new season. Our Vets team finished as league runners-up in their first season in the Herts Senior County League. Our managers Tim O'Sullivan and Pat Fallon in the 2018-19 season took us to 9th position in the league which was our highest finish since 2013. The last match of the season saw us in the final of the West Herts FA St. Mary's Cup where we narrowly lost by the only goal of the game to Berkhamsted. The rebuilding continues. The reserve team were our team of the season winning the Herts FA Intermediate Cup at the County ground beating Royston Town Reserves by 2 goals to nil. They finished as runners-up in the Herts County League Senior Division and also reached the final of The Aubrey Cup where they lost by the odd goal in 3 to premier division runners-up New Salamis who next season will be playing their football in the Spartan South Midlands division one. Next season is eagerly awaited as our reserves have been promoted to the HSCL premier division.



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.



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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. Matt Evans
2. Harry Beaumont
3. Scott Bonner
4. Reece Cameron
5. Kyle Clifford
6. Tom Gibson
7. Nick Kerley
8. Ashley Lewis
9. Andre Lopes
10. Tom McConway
11. Kenny Nobrega
12. Ryan Parkins
13. Luke Preedy
14. Carlos Simao
15. Jamie Speer
16. Gary Wallace
17. Vagnol Kediambiko

OFFICIALS

Referee: Deryll David

Assistants: Trevor Gregory and Noel
Gavin.

