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TOWN TALK

Volume #1

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**VS ABINGDON UNITED,
SHARPENHOE ROAD,
1/9/20, 19:45 KO**



**Emirates
FA CUP**





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 evening's visitors, Abingdon 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 JOE FITZGERALD

New signing, Fitzy, sits down and talks to us about moving to Town and Pre-Season so far.

PAGE 17: 2019/20 SEASON QUIZ

Test your Town knowledge with our 10-question Quiz all about last season!

TODAY'S TIE

OPPOSITION

Abingdon United

TIME & VENUE

7:45pm at Sharpenhoe Road, Barton-le-Clay

COMPETITION

The Emirates FA Cup
Extra Preliminary Round



PEOPLE AT THE CLUB

The hard-working volunteers at our Football Club:

Chairman: Alan Penman

Vice 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

Videographer: Ben Davage



A WORD FROM THE PRESS BOX

Good evening everyone and welcome to Sharpenhoe Road, the scene for tonight's FA Cup Extra Preliminary Round tie, with Abingdon United. A very warm welcome to our visitors this evening.

The eagle-eyed amongst you may have noticed, we're not at Bell Close tonight... This is down to the fact that our clubhouse, hall and toilet facilities are still undergoing key renovations, after the exciting £54,000 grant we received, in July. Without toilet facilities, we can't open the Bell Close doors to you, our supporters, just yet. Therefore, we send our sincerest of thanks to all at Barton Rovers, for allowing us to play here today, which also allows you to join us!

Pre-Season has been very promising for Town. Wins against Chipperfield, Bovingdon, Winslow and New Bradwell, with a 0-0 draw at Bell Close against former tenants Aylesbury United last Tuesday and a fighting 2-2 draw at Thame on Saturday.

2 new faces are amongst the Town ranks, in former Stevenage striker, Connor Calcutt and Aylesbury Vale Dynamos' captain of last season, defender, Joe Fitzgerald. You can hear from Fitzzy later in the programme.

For those that love football like we do, we're delighted to be back up and running.

However, we want to take a moment to thank our NHS frontline staff, our care workers and everyone who has made a difference during this pandemic. You're all heroes. We'd also like to take a moment, to pay our respects to those who have lost their lives due to COVID-19. Our thoughts are with you.

Enjoy the game and remember, no replays!



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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...



ABINGDON UNITED'S HISTORY

The club was formed in 1946 when a group of ex-service men decided that the town could support two football clubs. The first meeting to form the club was held in the local Anchor Public House on the bank of the River Thames, as there were no club facilities. They joined the North Berks League and within two seasons had won its Charity Shield. The following year 1953/54 they won the league and cup finalists.

The club had its sights on higher things and five years later entered the Hellenic League. Since then it has remained in this league and during this time had success in the lower divisions. In 1965/66 they won the Division One Challenge Cup and the following season were the cup finalists.

No further honours came the club's way until winning promotion in 1976/77 to the Premier Division. After a struggle at this level, relegation back to Division One came after four seasons. With a more ambitious approach, the club bounced back into the Premier League where it has remained ever since. It also won the Division One Cup in the same promotion year. Senior status was achieved in 1985 allowing it to be eligible for the F.A. Vase, County Senior Cup and in 1989 entered the F.A. Cup for the first time.

A Members Room, Function Room, Covered Stand and Floodlighting have been completed in recent years to improve the off pitch facilities. 1996/97 has seen the club complete its 50th season and it's most successful. United won the final of the Berks and Bucks Senior Trophy and also winning the League's Floodlit Cup. The highest ever league position was attained when finishing as Runners Up in the Hellenic Premier Division. The following season again saw success come to Northcourt Road with retaining the County Senior Trophy, Hellenic League Reserve Championship and Allied Counties Youth League winners.

2001 saw the construction of new changing rooms, together with turnstiles, to the Northcourt Road Ground and 2005 saw the construction of a new 150-seater stand and a covered stand. The club clinched promotion to the Southern League in season 2005/06. The club returned to the Hellenic League in 2013/14. United gained runners-up in Division 1 in season 2016/17 to clinch promotion back to the Hellenic Premier League. The 2017/18 saw the young Development team clinch runners up in the Hellenic Div 2 and also winning the League Challenge cup. The 2017/18 season also saw the introduction of United's first women's team who obtained League promotion in its first season together with the County Cup and League Cup. Season 2018/19 saw the women team progress into the Southern Region League, while the First Team were dropped down to the Hellenic Division 1.



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THE LOWDOWN WITH: JOE FITZGERALD

We catch up with new signing, Joe Fitzgerald!

Q: What made you join Town in the summer?

A: I saw the squad the gaffer had put together during the last season or so with a lot of good, hungry and ambitious players and I wanted to be part of that. Leighton Town itself is a GIANT of a club for this level and to represent the club was a chance I didn't want to miss! Ultimately I'm here to win, and my ambition is to win the division and I believed with the manager, the players and the huge support the club gets that this was the club for me. Since being here, I know I've made the right choice and looking forward to the season ahead!

Q: How have you found pre-season training and games with the lads?

A: It's been great to be playing football again to be honest! As a group we've worked hard in silence without needlessly blowing our own trumpet. Joe has installed into us that we will let other people talk but we will do ALL our talking on the pitch.

I've been made to feel very welcome by the boys and everyone associated with the club which has been great as the boys especially were already such a tight-knit group. From the first session the Skipper and the Gaffer especially have made me feel at home so I thank them for that.

Q: What's been your proudest moment on the football pitch so far?

A: Tough one! I was a very proud to be Club Captain at Aylesbury Vale Dynamos last season and I wish them well for this year. Signing for Hemel as a teenager on a 1 year contract with all my friends and family there was also a very proud moment for me. Either of those I guess!



THE LOWDOWN WITH: JOE FITZGERALD

Q: When the fixtures come out, what team are you most looking forward to facing and why?

A: I don't tend to be bothered by any opposition team. We play them all twice so it never bothers me what order we face them. My focus is always about us as a team and it's always just 3 points or getting through to the next round of a cup that's up for grabs so regardless what team lines up against us, our target is always to win the game and move on to the next. It's a cheesy line but I've got the mentality of take it a game at a time.

Q: FA Cup on a Tuesday night, a special feel to it, are you looking forward to the game?

A: Massively looking forward to it. It's been so long since a competitive match for all of us and an FA Cup game in front of our passionate supporters to kick off the season is an exciting prospect for me and the team. I can't wait to pull on the shirt and finally kick off what I am hoping is going to be a successful season for us in red and white. Abingdon United FC will be a tough test but we've prepared well for weeks now so it's up to us to show what we can do on the pitch. Let's go!

**That's the lowdown from
Fitzy, who would you like to
see next in Volume #2 of
Town Talk?**

Let us know on Twitter!



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SUPPORTERS SAY: STEVIE BEASY

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

Q: How long have you been following Leighton?

A: I started following Town about 15 years ago when I played for the U10's, but lost interest a few years ago as I started spending more time watching Bournemouth. I really got back into it last season though.

Q: What's made you take much more of an interest in Non-League and Town especially?

A: Premier League football has evolved into something unrecognisable, and it isn't fun to watch anymore. Non-League football is much more real, and there's so much more passion, which makes it more exciting to be in the stand. Town being a quality team is an added bonus to the excitement.

Q: Favourite moment from last season?

A: It's beginning to sound cliché but it has to be Eynesbury away in the FA Vase! Being 3-1 down after 70 minutes, we were more interested in where we were going for dinner after the game. That was until Sir Ashton stepped onto the pitch... The celebrations in the clubhouse after Bradford away is a close second. Fans and players singing and celebrating together will be a long-lasting memory.

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

A: I'm looking forward to throwing myself into more Non-League football and, as a fan of groundhopping, I can tick off some new grounds while watching Town this season. On the pitch, I've been really impressed with the Calcutt-Collier combination in the games I've seen so far.

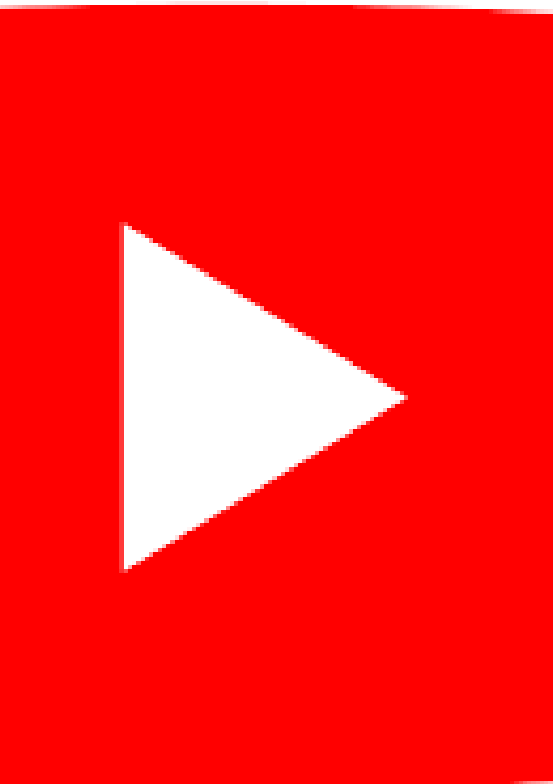
Q: Score Prediction for this evening?

A: I'm going for 3-1 Town this evening.



**HIGHLIGHTS & MORE
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**Pre-Season
Highlights from
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New Bradwell and
Thame!**



**On The Spot - with
Brad Kirkwood. 10
quickfire questions to
put our lads through
their paces!**



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THE 2019/20 SEASON QUIZ

Play our quiz, Tweet your answers to us (@LeightonTownFC) and we'll tweet the correct answers at Half-Time!

- 1) Who scored our first competitive goal of the season?
- 2) Which team did Town play in the 1st Round Q. of the FA Cup?
- 3) Who was our first league win against?
- 4) How many goals did we score against London Colney last season?
- 5) Against who, did Alfie Osborne go in goal after an injury to Bradders?
- 6) Archie McClelland scored the winning goal against which team in the FA Vase 3rd Round?
- 7) Who was awarded Man of the Match by Bradford Town in our Last 16 win at Trowbridge Road?
- 8) Who scored their first 2 Town goals against Baldock in February?
- 9) What was the score when Town travelled to league leaders Colney Heath on 1st of Feb?
- 10) Finally, who was our brilliant top goalscorer? (miss you x)

Good Luck! Remember to Tweet us your answers!



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!

PYMAN TRAINING AT CRAWLEY TOWN U23

A massive congratulations to last seasons U18 captain, Luke Pyman, who has been training with Crawley's U23 setup!

FA YOUTH CUP ACTION

Our U18s travel to Latimer Park to take on Kettering Town's U18s in the Preliminary Round.

NEXT FIXTURE

OPPOSITION

Kettering Town U18s

TIME & VENUE

7:45pm at Latimer Park, Burton Latimer

COMPETITION

The FA Youth Cup
Preliminary Round



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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. **Alfie Osborne**
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. **Ed Horne**
17. **Ben Pattie**
18. **Harrison Rogers**

Abingdon United Squad:

1. **Jack Griffiths**
2. **Luke McCormack**
3. **Nathan Simms**
4. **Ben Crooks**
5. **Jack White**
6. **Jack Gaul**
7. **Kyle Moss**
8. **Conor Ingram**
9. **Ben Curtis**
10. **Nathan Kimber**
11. **Ryan Hicks**
12. **Josh Cullen**
13. **Will Leach**
14. **Henry Horton**
15. **Charlie Bateman**
16. **Nathan Baker**
17. **Jack Wright**

Today's Match Officials:

Bob Trinder, John Wynne, Vince Neale