

The Talk of the Town

Volume #15, Saturday 23rd November



Tickets: £6 Adults, £3 Concessions, £1 Under 16s
vs Harefield United
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 this afternoon's SSML Premier Division game against Harefield United. A warm welcome to our visitors.

We have already faced up against Harefield this season, a 3-1 defeat at Preston Park, which saw both teams reduced to 10 men and ourselves going down to 9 at one point.

This afternoon, we hope for better, with ourselves being unbeaten in 7 in the league and having lost just once in 12 games (all comps).

On Tuesday, we played out a 2-2 draw against Eynesbury Rovers. Another point gained as we climb to 11th in the league, despite us being 2-0 up courtesy of a Danny Webb brace. What a season that man is having.

Bleacher Report and ESPN shared his goal against Tring on their social media accounts. A massive feat for us, with the total view count of that goal at around 500,000. For context, that is 5 and a half Wembley Stadium's. Crazy numbers.

Coming up this week, we travel to Shefford & Campton on Tuesday in the league challenge trophy. Another big game as we have already progressed through that cup twice, with convincing wins over Broadfields and Langford.

Next Saturday, the 30th, it's a big, big game! In the Buildbase FA Vase 3rd Round, we welcome Eastbourne Town, who will be travelling in great numbers! We need your support for that game, in what promises to be a fantastic occasion and a fantastic game of football. We want to see a big crowd and hopefully, plenty of people cheering on the Town. After all, it's Your Town, Your Team!

Make sure to check out our exceptional tea bar as well. Jackie and her husband have done a fantastic job in there and the food selection seems to get bigger each game!

Enjoy today's game and we hope to see you back here next Saturday in the Vase. Tell your friends, tell your family. It's a biggun!

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 time 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

The club was formed in 1868, making it the oldest club in Middlesex. In their formative years they played under such names as Harefield Victoria and Breakspear Institute in the local Uxbridge Leagues before merging with Harefield FC in 1934 to become Harefield United, playing in the Uxbridge and District League. By 1947 the club had joined the Great Western Combination, playing at Taylors Meadow and winning the league once in the 1950-1 season. In 1964 the club moved to the Parthenon League, winning the league at the first attempt. They then joined the Middlesex League two seasons later where they stayed for five seasons, winning the league title four times and the league cup twice. In 1967-8 the club celebrated their centenary by moving to their present ground at Preston Park in Harefield, joining the Spartan League Senior Section in the 1971-2 season, staying there for four seasons, making their debut in the FA Vase in 1974-5 before progressing to Division Two of the Athenian League for the 1975-6 season. The club also made their debut in the FA Cup in 1979-80. The Athenian League folded in 1984, the year the Hares won the League Cup under manager Nobby Carpenter, making them still the current holders! The club then moved to the Isthmian League Division Two North for two seasons, then spent seven years in Division Two South before being relegated to Division Three where they stayed until after the 1996-7 season when lack of funds for ground improvements meant the club had to move back to the Spartan League. A year later they became founder members of the Spartan South Midlands Premier Division South, until it was renamed Division One where they finished runners up and won the League Cup, before playing in the Spartan Premier where they remained until being relegated to Division One at the end of 2015-6. This spell was the most successful in the club's history winning the Challenge Trophy in 2002-3 and the Premier League Cup the following season when they were also runners up in the Middlesex Senior Charity Cup. Under manager Stuart Leavy the Hares were league runners up twice, in 2006-7 and again in 2008-9 when they missed out on promotion to the Ryman League by one goal difference to Biggleswade Town. In 2002 Harefield United Youth FC was formed with teams from the former Denham Youth FC, the club currently fielding over twenty teams of all ages and levels from Under 7s to Under 21s, Sunday League teams, Under 18s Allied Counties, reserves and first team with some players having progressed all the way through the ranks. In 2010 the club won the National Award for Groundsman Of The Year for Steps 5 and 6, some achievement for a club with no groundsman and the pitch maintained by volunteers. In season 2016-7 the club played five FA Cup ties and won the Middlesex Cup, finishing eighth in Division One. In season 2017-18 the Hares promoted reserve team coach Brian Keeley to Head of Youth Development with former first team player Ben Payne as his assistant, looking to expand the thriving youth programme further at Harefield.



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

REPORT vs Eynesbury

Town were looking to extend their fantastic recent run on Tuesday evening, as they welcomed SSML newbies, Eynesbury Rovers, to Bell Close. Sweeney's men came into the game on a high after Saturday's heroic win at Tring and lined up as follows: Benney, Resch, Silford, Murphy, Donkor, Newbury-Barr, Bryant, Fredericks, McClelland, Webb, Towell. Town have been known for their first starts in recent weeks and it was the same once again underneath the lights on Tuesday! Just two minutes into the tie and they took the lead! Great work by Town saw the ball squared back to Danny Webb, who finished smartly across the keeper, to give the Town a 1-0 lead! Despite Town taking an early lead, the game lacked any real chances for the next 20 minutes. A very scrappy, physical encounter played out in front of a crowd of 129 at Bell Close. Town then started to create opportunities. Newbury-Barr fired wide from inside the area, before McClelland's low drive was blocked. Town continued to dominate the first half, allowing Eynesbury barely a shot at goal. Fredericks was once again dictating the midfield play. However, Town's pressure tolled and they duly doubled their lead on the 41st minute! Danny Webb was on the mark again after McClelland's hard work and his deflected effort deceived the keeper and went in! 2-0. As the second half rolled around, Town were straight out of the blocks, with Webb firing into the keepers arms. However, just 6 minutes into the second period, Eynesbury pulled a goal back. A smart finish from a tight angle saw it flash past Benney and the Town rearguard. Sonny Newbury-Barr was replaced shortly after by Anthony Leslie, after he picked up what looked a nasty injury. All the best, Sonny. Carl Resch was replaced on the 65th, by the always lively, Ben Pattie. With Eynesbury piling on the pressure, but Town defending resolutely, they looked to take their chances on the counter. Towell had a low drive saved, Pattie stung the keeper's gloves from range. Dave Murphy entered the referee's book with 10 minutes to go. Eynesbury continued to throw bodies forward as they searched for an equaliser. As the game entered stoppage time, Dan Benney made a fantastic save to keep out a bullet header from a corner. However, the pressure tolled on the Town and as the game somehow rolled into its 5th minute of added time, Eynesbury equalised. A very scrappy finish in the penalty area by the same man who scored earlier on in the contest, earned the visitors a hard earned point. That was all of the action for one evening, with Town losing a 2-goal lead in the second period. However, it's another point gained and Town remain unbeaten in 7 league games! Thank you for your support, we welcome Harefield on Saturday! See you then!

THE TABLE

POS		P	W	D	L	GD	PTS
1	Tring Athletic	16	12	0	4	29	36
2	Colney Heath	13	11	0	2	22	33
3	Newport Pagnell Town	15	9	4	2	22	31
4	Biggleswade United	16	10	1	5	10	31
5	Harpenden Town	16	8	3	5	6	27
6	Oxhey Jets	15	7	5	3	3	26
7	Crawley Green	16	7	4	5	12	25
8	Eynesbury Rovers	14	7	4	3	12	25
9	Harefield United	14	8	1	5	9	25
10	Broadfields United	16	7	2	7	-15	23
11	Leighton Town	15	6	2	7	7	20
12	Leverstock Green	15	6	2	7	-9	20
13	Aylesbury Vale Dynamos	11	5	1	5	-1	16
14	Wembley	13	4	3	6	-4	15
15	Dunstable Town	14	4	3	7	-9	15
16	Potton United	16	4	3	9	-15	15
17	Arlesey Town	15	3	8	4	0	14 *
18	Edgware Town	15	4	1	10	-16	13
19	London Colney	15	3	2	10	-19	11
20	Baldock Town	14	2	3	9	-15	9
21	North Greenford United	14	0	2	12	-29	2



FIXTURES

	DATE	TIME	HOME	AWAY	VENUE
PREM	23/11/19	15:00	Leighton Town	Harefield United	LEIGHTON BUZZARD SPORTS ASSOCIATION LTD
LCT	26/11/19	19:45	Shefford Town & Campton	Leighton Town	Shefford Sports Club
FAV	30/11/19	15:00	Leighton Town	Eastbourne Town	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,
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Football in the area!**

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Squads



1. Dan Benney
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. Luke Pyman
16. Anthony Leslie
17. Michael Donkor
18. Josh Setchell

1. Jacob Ballheimer
2. Callum Rogers
3. Steven Green
4. Ryan Wharton
5. Tashan Jordan
6. Sean Mangan
7. Paul Underwood
8. Anthony Page
9. Richard Pacquette
10. Samuel Shaw
11. Gary Edwards
12. Gurkan Gokman
13. Lenny Farhall
14. Luke Baldwin
15. Lee McManus
16. Elliott Dobbs
17. Harry McCorkell
18. Reece Mallett

OFFICIALS

Referee: James Sedley.

**Assistants: Robert Poole and Kevin
Moore.**

