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OFFICIAL PROGRAMME



**BANBURY UNITED V BEDFORD TOWN**  
**TUESDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2024 | K.O. 7.45PM**  
Pitching In Southern League Premier Division Central



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# CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME



Good evening everyone.

Welcome to our latest game under the lights here this evening following the quick turnaround after our draw here on Saturday.

As always, we offer a very warm welcome to the supporters, players, staff and directors of Bedford Town FC. They have started this campaign well, and I expect this to be a challenging test for both sides.

I would like to take this opportunity to recognise the work and efforts of Andy and the entire ground staff this season so far. As we all know, we have spent large parts of the past month under water, and to see the pitch in the condition it was on Saturday was testament to all the hard work and dedication our incredible grounds team deliver week in and week out. I thank you all.

For myself the match on Saturday was bitter sweet. It was fantastic to see so many players back and available to either start or contribute to the performance on the pitch, however it was really frustrating for everyone that we couldn't convert the

win that our dominance deserved, especially given the brilliant numbers that came through the gate to support us. With more players now becoming available, and an almost full first team to choose from, we are getting closer to the early season performances we've proven we can achieve. A fully fit and available first team is the true measure for where we are placed within this division and as some previous results have shown, on our day we are a match for anyone. This evening will be a good test and one that with your support, I know we can overcome.

Finally, I would also like to acknowledge and pay thanks to our match sponsor this evening, LJ Construction. They were founded by Lee Jones in 1985, and now employ a workforce of over 150 from their Banbury based headquarters. They aim to be the Carpentry Contractor of choice for the best of UK national house builders, specialising in medium to large scale construction sites throughout Central England. We thank them for their support, and we look forward to hosting them this evening.

Be loud, be proud and enjoy the game.  
Wayne

## **BANBURY UNITED FOOTBALL CLUB**

is a Community Benefit Society registered under the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014. Reg No. 7135, as Banbury United Community Football Club Ltd.

**MANAGEMENT BOARD:** Chairman – Wayne Farrell,  
Natalie Brown, Lisa Dixon, Ryan Duggleby, Claire Dumbreck, Martin Jopp

**FOOTBALL SECRETARY:** Carl Ashford

**FOOTBALL MANAGEMENT:** Manager – Simon Hollyhead

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# FROM THE DUGOUT

## Simon Says...



Good evening and a very warm welcome to all our supporters, friends and volunteers.

I also extend my good wishes to everyone connected with Bedford Town Football Club.

We are really looking forward to tonight's encounter, as it is the next challenge on our journey and promises to be a tough test for our developing squad against the League leaders.

At 5pm on Saturday we were frustrated not to have won the game as for large parts, the performance resembled our style that was evident in the early stages of the League campaign and more recently against Stratford and Halesowen. The control and balance we had in our build ups and out of possession, especially in the first half gave us a great source of encouragement given that a number of lads were returning to the starting XI, namely George B returning from a three game ban, Yaw a one game ban and Nico returning four weeks on from injury.

In addition I was delighted with Alex's debut in midfield. To play a game at this level, whilst adapting to new patterns of play and the movements of new team mates so quickly proved his quality. He is an excellent addition to our squad and is determined to help us strive towards our target. The undercarriage for his performance levels are his attitude and aptitude and is aligned to our other consistent inherent performers in our squad.

A special note from Saturday should also be reserved for Jaanai making his return at "home". His contribution during the last four games has been very impressive and has raised our levels in the attacking phases of the game. I admire his wisdom and quality. It is evident why everyone I spoke to was enormously

positive about him during the due diligence phases we compile on every player alongside our Analysis Dept.

Finally in closing , on behalf of the squad I would like to pass on our sincere appreciation for the skill and dedication of our Head Groundsman Andy Mayo and his team. This has become even more evident during the last 2 weeks dealing with the unsurpassable challenges they have encountered. The hours that aren't seen by people are on show for us all when we see the pitch at training and games.



Together we are stronger with our support for the 11 players wearing the red shirt at any one time!

UTP  
Simon



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# BEDFORD TOWN HISTORY



Bedford Town Football Club was formed in 1908. It has had a mixed history that has seen it reach the higher levels of Non-League football, with some notable cup runs on the way.

The Eagles started life playing in the United Counties League, and its predecessors the Northampton League and Northampton Alliance. In 1945, they moved to the Southern League but had little success until 1951 when player/manager Ronnie Rooke joined the club. Having a well-known former England and top-flight footballer, inspired the local population to back the club, which paid off with some notable scalps in the FA Cup in the mid 1950s when Bedford attracted national fame as giant killers. Notable victories included Watford 3-2, Norwich 4-2, Newcastle 2-1, Exeter 2-1, Brighton 2-1 and Oxford 1-0, but maybe the 2-2 draw at Highbury against Arsenal in front of 55,000 fans was their biggest achievement.

Rooke's management reign came to an end and the 1960s and 1970s saw a string of managers, including Barry Fry in 1977 who was followed by Trevor Gould. The last match for the Eagles at its home in Queens Park was in 1982, when the ground's leaseholders reserved their right to terminate their contract. After 74 years, Bedford's football team was no more.

Bedford Town supporters have always been a determined bunch, and on 5<sup>th</sup> May 1989 some of them met with the aim of starting a campaign to reform the club. That campaign was so successful that they soon got Council permission to play on a public pitch in Queens Park, finishing fourth in the first reformed season in the South Midlands League. Runaway success in the 1992/93 season under Terry King and Tony Sullivan saw them needing their own ground to progress.

The Council decided that the most appropriate location for the club was at a former tree nursery

at Meadow Lane in Cardington. With financial support from the Council and hard work by supporters, the ground was ready for its first match in front of a bumper crowd of 3,000 at the New Eyrie when Peterborough United came to town.

The Eagles in their new home started life in the SML Premier Division and remained top all season. This meant that more work at the ground was needed. Two successive promotions followed before the club hit a stumbling block and risked relegation. The decision was made to bring Mick Foster in as manager from Buckingham Town. He brought several of his players with him, rescuing the season where Bedford finished in eighth. 1997/98 was Foster's best season, narrowly missing out on promotion and winning the Vandanel Cup and the Beds Premier Cup.

Former players Jason Reed and Tony Luff took over as joint managers in 1998/99, having a good run in the FA Trophy, losing in the fifth round to the eventual winners Tiverton Town, in front of a bumper crowd of 1,566 at the New Eyrie.

Roger Ashby arrived the following season, when the club had another strong cup run, this time losing out to Conference side Yeovil Town in the fourth round of the FA Trophy in front of 2,010.

The change of millennium also saw changes for the Eagles as they become a Private Limited Company, owned by David Howells. A generally poor season but great run in the FA Cup saw *Match of the Day* cameras arrive at the Eyrie as a bumper crowd enjoyed a 0-0 draw against then Division 2 Peterborough United. The replay at London Road saw Bedford miss out in a 2-1 scoreline.

Former Northern Ireland international and Northampton Town manager Kevin Wilson took over after Ashby's departure. Results improved with him, but he soon departed to Aylesbury United. Dave Randell was next to take charge, but a poor run of results saw him replaced by Nick Platnauer.

Platnauer's first season in charge saw the team just miss out on promotion, but his second in

2005/06 saw the club move into its new facilities at the beginning of the season, with a new function room and football facilities up to National Conference standard. The club was consistent throughout the season and earned a playoff final spot at Chippenham. The Eagles had their day with a magnificent 3-2 win, the winning goal coming from a wonder strike by Tom Bonner two minutes from time. The Eagles now faced a new challenge in Nationwide South, the highest standard the club has played in since reformation in 1990.

The Eagles found life hard in the Conference South. In February 2007, Platnauer resigned and was replaced by Stuart Bimson. Results improved, but as they were not enough to prevent relegation, Bedford's short foray into Conference football was over.

Things got worse the following season. A second relegation was only avoided by the financial problems of other teams. Lee Howarth took over in the 2008/09 season, but he struggled to find form and was replaced the following season by former Reading captain and Welsh International Ady Williams. Survival in the division came in the last game of the season, where a 2-0 win over Tiverton ensured safety by a single point. The following season saw assistant manager Ady Hall promoted to the top job, but he struggled to find form and Nick Platnauer returned to the club as his assistant before taking the helm again.

Platnauer's departure in 2013 led to a string of other manager appointments during the following years: Lee Barman from Cranfield United, former player Danny Nicholls, and Wellingborough manager Craig Adams, who was in charge as the Eagles were relegated to Southern League Division One.

Jon Taylor took over in 2015/16 and his first full season in charge the following year saw a mid-table finish.

One of the club's most significant moments occurred in February 2018, when the club was brought by a local consortium headed by David and Jon Taylor. During that 2017/18 season, the team missed out on playoffs, finishing once again in eighth place. Rebuilding of the club and the

team followed during the summer with several former league players joining. The team enjoyed a fantastic run in both the FA Cup and Trophy in 2018/19, but that affected results in the League, although they did make the playoffs, losing out to Corby Town.

On 13<sup>th</sup> October 2019, the passing of owner David Taylor, led to his son and Eagles' manager Jon becoming a director of the club. With Jon moving upstairs, assistant manager Nathan Abbey stepped up as manager, winning his first match, but losing the next seven (of nine). Eventually, he was replaced by former player Mark Duckett. The season was declared null and void due to Covid-19, and work began preparing for the resumption of football in September 2020.

An early exit in the FA Cup and defeat in the first League match saw Duckett depart, to be replaced by Gary Setchell. Setchell and his assistant Darren Edey started their tenure well, remaining undefeated until the season was eventually curtailed once again.

In 2021/22, the club was Division One Central champions, earning promotion to the Premier Division Central. However, Bedford finished bottom of the Division the following season and was relegated back to Division One Central. The club finished runners-up in Division One Central in 2023/24; in the subsequent playoffs they defeated Ware 2-1 in the semi-finals and beat Waltham Abbey 2-1 in the final to secure promotion back to the Premier Division Central.

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Tell me 10 interesting facts about Bedford

1. Bedford is 46 miles north-northwest of London, 65 miles southeast of Birmingham, 25 miles west of Cambridge and 19 miles east-southeast of Northampton.
2. Bedford holds a record of having one of the largest Italian communities outside Italy. Historians say that most of the locals have an Italian descent which makes them British-Italians.
3. Bedford's administration is based on what the people suggest. An excellent example is a street naming policy where the names of places and streets are named after suggestions from the public.
4. During World War II, Bedford sheltered BBC music and various religious communities because London was the prominent target. Famous singers and musicians came to Bedford including Bing Crosby, Glenn Miller, and Humphrey Bogart.
5. Bedfordshire has been used as a humorous way of talking about going to bed since the 1600s.
6. Bedford was granted borough status in 1165 and has been represented in Parliament since 1265.
7. Just outside the town lies the Cardington Airship Hangars. The hangars have been used to shoot scenes for movies such as Star Wars, Batman Begins, The Dark Knight and Inception. The hangars can be seen from the Bedford Bypass.



8. Despite being far upriver from the sea, seals have occasionally been reported as swimming as far inland as Bedford.

9. The following famous people come from Bedford: Paula Radcliffe, the UK's top female long-distance runner and world record holder for the women's marathon since 2002; Carol Vorderman, television personality; and Tom Grennan, singer.



10. The popular BBC TV series Some Mothers Do 'Ave 'Em was filmed in and around Bedford during the 1970s.

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# BANBURY UNITED WOMEN

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We are heading in an exciting new direction that includes women who have and haven't played before and we welcome all abilities.

We are running open training sessions for players interested in joining us so come and get involved.



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Contact Natalie for further information:  
[natalie@banburyunitedfc.co.uk](mailto:natalie@banburyunitedfc.co.uk)





# ROYSTON TOWN 1 BANBURY UNITED 0



In yet another tight single-goal game, this time it was Banbury that failed to score as the Crows proved a little too strong overall. Twice in the opening ten minutes, Banbury had stalwart 'keeper Jack Harding to thank as he made two crucial saves. However, in the 15<sup>th</sup> minute, young Matty Ireland beat two Royston attackers on the left and tore down the wing before sending over a beautiful cross which unfortunately evaded a Banbury shirt as it fell appealingly into the six-yard box, with no blue shirts in sight.

The Crows took the lead in the 24<sup>th</sup> minute when a rare slip in the centre of United's defence let in Luke Johnson, and he slipped the ball past the stranded Jack Harding to put Royston a goal up. Harding was called on again in the 33<sup>rd</sup> minute to flick the ball over the crossbar for yet another good save, and he was certainly the busier of the two goalkeepers, although the home side was finding Ireland a bit of a handful as he earned another free kick on the left in the 38<sup>th</sup> minute.

It was much the same in the second half as Banbury continued to struggle to get anything going up front, although returning striker Jaanai Gordon looked the more likely to get something out of the game as he offered something different up front.

Banbury went close again in the 57<sup>th</sup> minute when Gordon played a good ball to Harry Reilly, wide on the right, who in turn centred the ball to AJ George, but his first-time effort was dealt with by an efficient home defence. Banbury were at last looking more dangerous and in the next five minutes, both Gordon and AJ George were unlucky with strikes that were again dealt with by Royston. Just after the hour, both sides rang the changes with Royston bringing on their third substitute, and United replacing two players in an effort to change things.

In the 87<sup>th</sup> minute, United rode their luck when Royston were awarded a penalty when Yaw Ofori was adjudged to have been guilty of pushing, but Jack Harding did well to save the resulting spot-kick, and United were still just one goal adrift. However, time was against Banbury and, although the referee added a further six minutes of added-on time, Banbury's late pressure was not enough, and all three points rested with the Crows.

Royston Town: Tommy Dixon-Hodge, James Brighton, Joshua Coldicott-Stevens, Adam Murray (captain), Ben Weyman, Jesse Akubuine (64 mins. Charlie Johnson), Luke Johnson, Bradley Roberts, Harvey Beckett (51 mins. Tyrone Baker), Randy Bulakio (51 mins. Harrison Rookard), Eunis Llevins. Subs (not used) Tiago Silva Nassunculo, Daniel Izeke.

Banbury United: Jack Harding, Tai Fleming, Gedeon Okito (86 mins. Neo Dobson), Claudio Dias (78 mins. Matty Donaldson), Yaw Ofori (captain), Matthew Ireland (68 mins. Ramello Mitchell), Harry Reilly, Charlie Donaldson, Jaanai Gordon, Prince Henry (46 mins. Connor Ferguson), AJ George. Sub (not used) Archie Hollyhead.

Attendance: 357



# ROYSTON TOWN 1 BANBURY UNITED 0





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# STRATFORD TOWN 1 BANBURY UNITED 1



In a typical local derby encounter, honours were shared and, although both sides had a man sent off, it was a game devoid of any bad tackles or short tempers, and a good advert for football at this level. In front of a bumper crowd, both sides competed well, and a very equal affair was envisaged between two hard-working sides. The Bards were the first to shine, and a fantastic point-blank save saw Jack Harding block a chance at the near post in only the third minute as Stratford looked for a golden start.

Somewhat out of the blue, Stratford were reduced to ten men in the 25<sup>th</sup> minute when Callum Ebanks was shown a straight red card for swearing, with such volume that it was actually heard in the Stand, some 50 yards away, giving the referee little option than to send him off. Three minutes later, Harry Reilly unleashed a shot that was inches wide with Jake Weaver well beaten, as Banbury at last started to get into the game.

Although down to ten men, the Bards did well to compete almost on equal terms, and United had to work hard to keep in control.

After the break the team instructions were clear, and Banbury started to make the extra man matter. They pushed Town back, as they looked to get the all-important opening goal of the night. It arrived, at last, in the 55<sup>th</sup> minute when Claudio Dias floated in a free kick from the left which was met by Jaanai Gordon who headed home to put the visitors in front.

Banbury, although a man to the good, again had Harding to thank for safe handling on every cross that came his way, as well as a string of great saves in a display which is quite rightly labelling him as the best 'keeper in the League. However, when Ofosu received his second caution in the 77<sup>th</sup> minute, and therefore the inevitable red card, it meant that the player count was now ten each. This gave Stratford the spur they were waiting for and they certainly looked the stronger side. Yet it took a further 12 minutes before Chris Hussey sent in a cross which was met by Paul McCone who headed home from all of a foot off the line to give the home side a well-deserved point.

Stratford Town: Jacob Weaver, Alexander Williams (43 mins. Reece Styche), Alex Worley (69 mins. Finley Brennan), Joshua Hawker (72 mins. Lewis Wilson), Paul McCone, Babatomiwa Solanke, Christopher Hussey, Lewis Ludford-Ison, Callum Ebanks, Daniel Lafferty, Owen James (61 mins. Tyrell Skeen-Hamilton). Sub (not used) Andre Wright.

Banbury United: Jack Harding, Tai Fleming, Tom Cartwright (63 mins. Gedeon Okito), Claudio Dias, Yaw Ofosu (captain), Ramello Mitchell (66 mins. Matthew Ireland), Harry Reilly, Archie Hollyhead, Jaanai Gordon, Charlie Donaldson (79 mins. Neo Dobson), AJ George (87 mins. Connor Ferguson).

Attendance - 864



# STRATFORD TOWN 1 BANBURY UNITED 1





**Click the picture below to watch the highlights from our match against Stratford Town on 24<sup>th</sup> September 2024**





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# ALL OUR YESTERDAYS



## 25 Years Ago

Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> October 1999 and unbeaten Banbury United, with 14 points from six games, travelled to second in the table Highworth Town for a Hellenic League Premier Division game.

Banbury went close on three occasions in the first 20 minutes but with Banbury pushing forward, Highworth broke down the right on 26 minutes and the centre found an unmarked Stuart Morse whose header looped over the stranded Jon Skeen and into the top corner to put the home side 1-0 up. Banbury equalised 11 minutes later when Jon Blencowe fed Matty Gooderick who turned and shot under the advancing Paul Haines from 10 yards. Banbury dominated the early stages of the second half but Highworth weathered the storm and gradually got back into the game. On 66 minutes a home side breakaway saw Paul Day beat the off-side trap and although Skeen got his hand to the ball, the shot was hit with tremendous power and Highworth were back in front. Chances fell to both sides in the rest of the game but Banbury found Haines equal to everything thrown at him and it finished 2-1 to Highworth.

Banbury United: Jon Skeen, Andy Wallbridge, Ashley McKinness (Neil Sole 35 {Jody McKay 51}), Jon Blencowe, Les Phillips, Ady Fuller, Jon Corbett, Mark Sherlock, Steve Jenkins, Matty Gooderick, Mike Preedy (Kevin Brock 83).

## 35 Years Ago

An away game against Isthmian League Division One side Chalfont St Peter in the Second Qualifying Round of the FA Trophy was on the menu for Banbury United on Saturday 21st October 1989.

United dominated the opening 45 minutes but chances went begging and it was Chalfont, against the run of play, who opened the scoring two minutes before the break when a free kick on the right was not cleared by the Banbury defence and Steve Church volleyed the ball home from ten yards. Banbury still looked the better side after the break but were unable to find the back of the net. Then on 75 minutes a long kick from the Chalfont defence saw Micky Torres rush out of his goal to boot it away but he missed the ball and John Richardson stepped in to tap it into the net. United's hopes were finally extinguished in the 87<sup>th</sup> minute when Julian Dark's back pass was not hit firmly enough and Doug Taylor took advantage to make it 3-0.

Banbury United: Micky Torres, Julian Dark, Karlton Stratford, Kieran Sullivan, Tony Rose, Donovan Gethfield, Paul Dunn, Dave Bristow, Steve Slaughter, Matthew Davis, Darren Teggart. Subs: Lee Maskery, Keith Brindle.

## 55 Years Ago

Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> October 1969 and Folkestone Town were the visitors to the Spencer Stadium in a Southern League Division One game. Folkestone were fifth in the table whilst Banbury were down in 17<sup>th</sup> place.

Despite Folkestone's lofty league position, it was Banbury who provided most of the football entertainment. Folkestone took the lead on 24 minutes through David Bostock but three minutes later Tony Foster equalised following a goalmouth melee. The visiting defence was then torn apart by the live-wire Foster in the 35<sup>th</sup> minute, a jinking run down the left wing, a cross of pin-point accuracy to the far post and Alan Hellyer, racing in at high speed, scored a spectacular goal. Banbury had to wait until the 78<sup>th</sup> minute to score another goal but the wait was well worth it. Following a left-wing corner kick which was only partially cleared, Colin Mouldsdales lashed a half-volley into the top corner of the net from the edge of the area to score his first goal for the club and make it 3-1.

Banbury United: Stewart Rennie, Cyril Beavon, Bob Haynes, Pete Svenson, Roger Darvell, Colin Mouldsdales, Tony Bradbury, Tony Foster, Barry Kelcher, Malcolm Chadwick, Alan Hellyer. Sub: Ray Ball.



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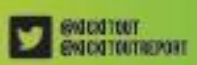
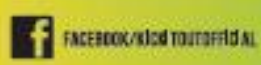
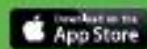
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# UPCOMING MATCHES



## **Spalding United v Banbury United – Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2024 K.O. 3.00pm Sir Halley Stewart Field, Winfrey Avenue, Spalding, Lincolnshire, PE11 1DA**

Like Bedford, Spalding are newly promoted to the Southern League Premier Division Central. However, they have found life at step three slightly harder to adjust to. The Tulips find themselves languishing in the relegation zone in 20<sup>th</sup> position with just three wins from their opening 10 games. However, since they decided to part company with former Puritans' fan favourite Elliot Sandy replacing him with former Peterborough Sports and Scunthorpe manager Jimmy Dean, they have seen an upturn in results picking up maximum points from their recent league games against Biggleswade Town and Lowestoft Town before falling to defeat at Hitchin Town on Saturday. Your travelling support this season has been superb and it would be great to see another large following make the trip to Lincolnshire to cheer on the Puritans in what is bound to be another very tough game.

### **Tickets:**

- Adults - £12
- Concessions - £7
- Under 18 - £4
- Under 11 - Free

### **Travel:**

Parking at the ground is strictly for playing staff, match officials and club officials, however, there is plenty of parking close to the ground with a Pay and Display Car Park located at the bus station next to the ground. **BE AWARE:** the retail car parks adjoining the ground have a three-hour maximum stay.

Spalding Railway Station is only a short 5 minute walk away from the ground and is served by services from Peterborough and Doncaster.



## **Biggleswade Town v Banbury United – Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2024 K.O. 3.00pm Langford Road, Biggleswade, SG18 9JT**

A run of four games in 10 days is concluded when the Puritans make the trip to Bedfordshire to take on Biggleswade Town. For the third successive game, Banbury United will be playing a newly promoted side after the Waders returned to Step three after winning the Southern League Division One Central title last year. Biggleswade currently find themselves in 21<sup>st</sup> place with just one League win and seven points from their opening ten games. The Puritans' last visit to Langford Road was a stern test on their way to the Southern League Premier Central title with two very late goals from Chris Wreh and Morgan Roberts seeing the Puritans narrowly beat the Waders. This trip to Biggleswade will be no different so once again it would be amazing to see a number of the Red and Gold Army make the trip and cheer on the team in the hunt for another very important three points.

### **Tickets:**

- Adults - £12
- Concessions - £10
- Under 16 - Free

### **Travel:**

Parking is available on site free of charge.

Biggleswade Train Station is just under a mile away from the ground and is served by trains from Horsham and Peterborough (via central London).

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The top part of the advertisement features a red background with a white soccer ball and a white net graphic on the left. To the right is the 'modex EXHIBITIONS' logo, where 'modex' is in a lowercase, rounded font and 'EXHIBITIONS' is in a smaller, uppercase font. Below the logo is the text 'Proudly supporting our local community:'. At the bottom, there are three circular logos: 'BANBURY UNITED FOOTBALL CLUB' (with a yellow and red crest), a crest with a red tower and a white shield, and 'BANBURY HOCKEY' (in a dark blue circle).

**United's First Visit to the Original "Eyrie" Ground**  
**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 1968**  
**Southern League First Division – Bedford Town 1 Banbury United 1**

Bedford's hopes of a win in this vital Southern League Division One promotion battle were dashed when Banbury's Tony Jacques gleefully raised his arms after scoring a great goal thirty seconds from time. Many of the 2,038 crowd had left the ground thinking that Bedford had won! The man behind the move which led to the goal was left winger Robin Scott whose dashing run before he flashed the ball into the Bedford danger zone, had put the home defence at panic stations. Jacques burst through to blast a sizzling shot past home goalkeeper Alan Collier. He could scarcely have seen the ball as it flew past him. For Jacques it was league goal number 23. And he got it in spite of the close attention paid to him by Bedford's six-foot centre-half Ron Fogg. The Banbury front line leader was never left unchecked. That is until the dying seconds!

Admittedly, Banbury had a slice of luck in the first half when at least three shots were just off target and Bedford played some very attractive football but Banbury were so well served by their defence that it was not until the 34th minute that the visitors' goal fell when Tony Lines, always looking equal to everything the Bedford forwards could hurl at him, had no chance with the header that beat him. Over came a waist-high cross from a free-kick taken by full back Bill McCullough and inside right George Cleary glanced the ball past Lines with a deft head flick.

But the home side themselves could count their lucky stars just after the break. Twice, in almost as many minutes, Brian Macready put wide when it looked harder to miss than score. Robin Scott had a magnificent effort saved luckily when the ball hit the goalkeeper's legs and when Colin Holder unleashed a "special", Collier in the Bedford goal flung himself full length to bring off a masterly save. Then with Bedford wasting time as the minutes ticked by and holding on to their slim lead by any method, up popped the idol of the Banbury fans, Jacques, with a goal long to be remembered – as much for its brilliance as its importance! Bedford Town Line Up: Alan Collier, Dave Skinn, Bill McCullough, Alan Wright, Ron Fogg, Ray Freeman, Laurie Churchill, George Cleary, Morgan, Norman Cooley, Len Adams. Sub: Brian Stevens  
Banbury United Line Up: Tony Lines, Jim Cassidy, Roger Darvell, John Lovatt, Paddy Page, Pete Svenson, Ritchie Ward, Brian Macready, Tony Jacques, Colin Holder, Robin Scott. Sub: Bob Haynes.



*Bedford Town's old ground (the original Eyrie) in Ford End Road.*

# Ye Olde Programme

A look at the programme issued for the Southern League First Division game between Bedford Town and Banbury United, match report for which appears on the previous page, played at the Eyrie on Saturday 3rd February 1968.

This was United's second season of Southern League football but the previous season Bedford Town had been a Premier Division club so there were no meetings between the sides. This was therefore United's first trip to the Eyrie. The teams had met in a league game at the Spencer Stadium in September of 1967, a game which saw a 3-1 win for the Eagles.

The programme was a 12 page A5 size issue. Adverts tended to run along the top and bottom of each page so there was at least some reading/statistical material on each page. The teams were listed in the middle of the two centre pages with adverts encircling them, a very common procedure back in those days.

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**BEDFORD TOWN**  
v.  
**BANBURY UNITED**  
SATURDAY, 3rd FEBRUARY, 1968. Kick-off at 3 p.m. "The Eagles"

Official Programme Price 6d.

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BEDFORD TOWN (White/Blue)	Referee: <b>J. H. Smith</b> (Leics.)	BANBURY UNITED (Scarlet and Gold)
1 Alan Collier	<p>Your <b>ON THE BALL</b> Sports Service — <b>BEDFORDSHIRE</b> TIMES and <b>BEDFORD</b> RECORD</p> <p>Linesmen: Red Flag F. F. Dewey (Cambs.)</p> <p>C. G. Watts (Essex) Yellow Flag</p>	1 A. Lines
2 Bob Ryder		2 J. Cassidy
3 Bill McCullough		3 P. Page
4 Alan Wright		4 R. Darnell
5 Ron Fogg		5 S. Lovatt
6 Ray Freeman		6 P. Svenson
7 Laurie Churchill		7 B. Sansom
8 Dave Skinn		8 C. Folder
9 Barry Kelcher		9 T. Jacques
10 Norman Cooley		10 R. Ward
11 Len Adams		11 R. Scott
Sub.: Brian Stevens		Sub.: B. Macready

**NOGGIN KEG BITTER** (left vertical text)  
**WELLS BOWMAN STOUT** (right vertical text)

**DRINK WELL - DRINK WELLS**

The actual line ups are printed on the previous page. One point to note though is that included in the Bedford Town line up in the programme at number 9, though for some reason he did not actually play in the game, was Barry Kelcher who would sign for Banbury United from Bedford just six months later. He was a replacement at the Spencer Stadium for Tony Jacques who was sold at the end of this season to Nuneaton Borough. Barry would leave Banbury after two seasons moving on to play for Worcester City.

I also notice from the notes above the team line ups printed in the programme that there was an opportunity to sponsor a match ball for 8 guineas! Now some younger supporters may need some enlightening as to what a guinea is or was! The term guinea still survives today in some circles, notably horse racing, to mean an amount of one pound and five pence in decimalised currency (equivalent to 21 shillings).

On the Bedford side, Alan Wright would later be appointed player/manager of the club in March 1969, leading them to the Southern League First Division title in season 1969/70. Norman Cooley and Dave Skinn would both be associated with Bedford for many years, still playing for the side in the late 70s with both putting in over 15 years' service with the club. The players shared a testimonial at the club.

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On Saturdays, our sports coverage usually starts at 13:00, before we hand over to our commentary team – headed by Dave England – at 14:30 (subject to change if kick-off isn't scheduled to start at 15:00). For some lifelong *Puritans* supporters, our commentaries are their lifeline: we have ex-pat fans who tune in from as far away as Australia, Canada, Brazil, and the USA!

You'll find all of our pre- and post-match interviews on Facebook, as well as at [www.puritansradio.com](http://www.puritansradio.com) and on Banbury United's website.

Throughout the week, Puritans Radio provides a diverse mixture of music, Community news, interviews and *What's On* announcements. Would you like us to promote *your* forthcoming event? Or even provide the Public Address for it?

Contact us at [studio@puritansradio.com](mailto:studio@puritansradio.com) – or pop over to our studio while you're here today, and have a chat with one of our team. We'd love to hear from you!

And if you fancy having a go yourself – behind the microphone, or behind the scenes – we're always keen to welcome new volunteers. [Speaking of *behind the scenes*, we'd be especially delighted to meet you if you have a vehicle that's attached to a towbar, with which you could help us to take our Public Address trailer to occasional outdoor community events.]

If today is your first sampling of Banbury United's hospitality, or the first time you have come across Puritans Radio, we hope that you have had an enjoyable experience. Please stay tuned: tell friends and family about Banbury's Community Radio Station... and invite them to join you on your next visit to watch the Club's football teams!

Up The Puritans!























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Presenter and Stadium Announcer Richard Hamilton with Commentator Dave England

# Pitching In Southern League Premier Division Central LEAGUE TABLE

(last updated 12<sup>th</sup> October at 17:15 hours)

	<b>P</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>Pts</b>
 1 Bedford Town	11	6	3	2	22	14	21
 2 Stratford Town	11	5	4	2	18	10	19
 3 Stourbridge	10	6	1	3	15	9	19
 4 Stamford	11	6	1	4	14	13	19
 5 Kettering Town	9	5	2	2	18	7	17
 6 AFC Telford United	9	5	2	2	16	17	17
 7 Halesowen Town	11	5	2	4	13	17	17
 8 AFC Sudbury	11	4	4	3	23	16	16
 9 Alvechurch	10	5	1	4	10	8	16
 10 Redditch United	10	5	1	4	13	13	16
 11 Banbury United	10	4	3	3	7	6	15
 12 Bishop's Stortford	9	4	2	3	13	11	14
 13 St Ives Town	9	4	0	5	14	11	12
 14 Barwell	10	3	3	4	13	11	12
 15 Royston Town	10	3	3	4	11	14	12
 16 Harborough Town	9	2	4	3	8	9	10
 17 Leiston	9	2	4	3	11	13	10
 18 Bromsgrove Sporting	10	3	1	6	12	16	10
 19 Lowestoft Town	9	3	0	6	14	22	9
 20 Spalding United	10	3	0	7	9	23	9
 21 Biggleswade Town	10	1	4	5	12	17	7
 22 Hitchin Town	10	2	1	7	14	23	7

# STAT ATTACK

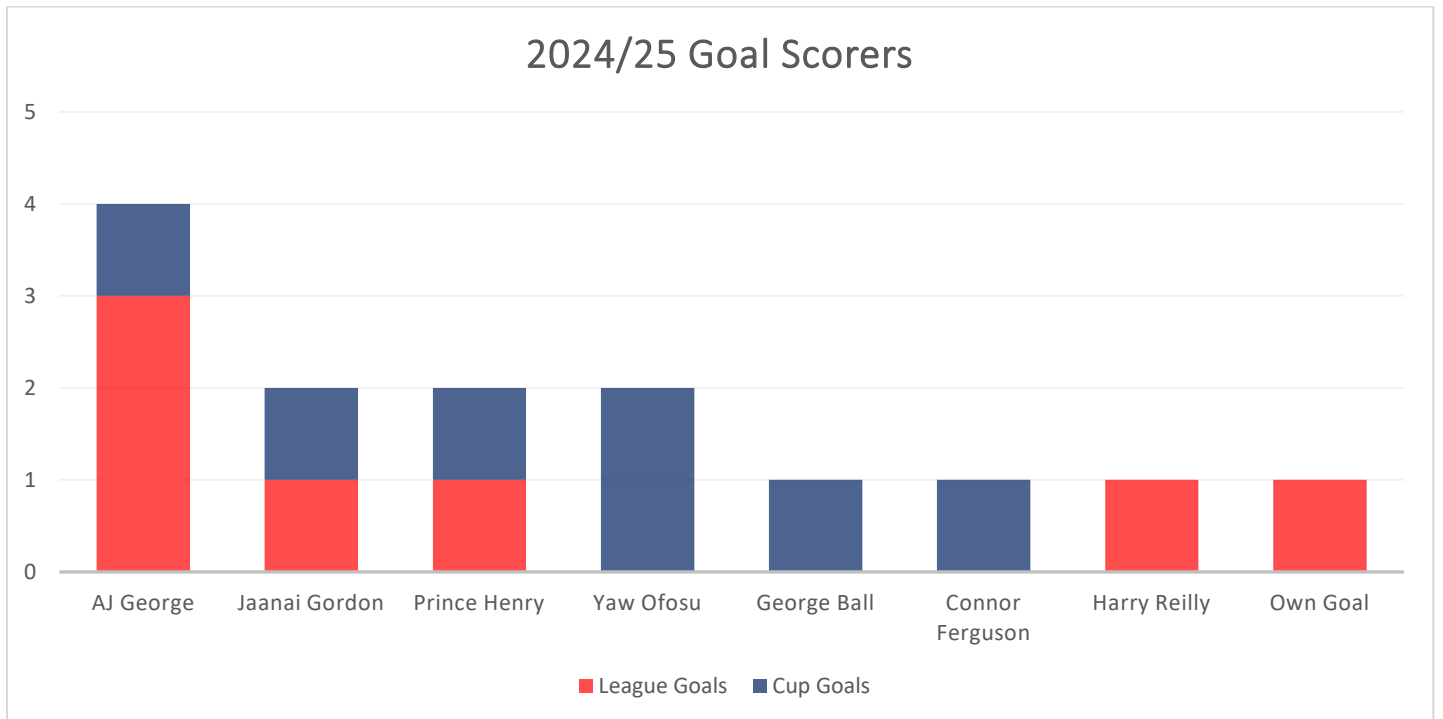
## SEASON 2024/25

### Appearances:

	League				Cup				Total				Total Career Appearances		
	Full	Used Sub	Total		Full	Used Sub	Total		Full	Used Sub	Total		Lge	Cup	Total
George Ball	8		8		3		3		11		11		8	3	11
Tommy Cartwright	3		3		1	2	3		4	2	6		3	3	6
Claudio Dias	4	5	9		1	1	2		5	6	11		48	12	60
Neo Dobson		2	2			1	1			3	3		2	1	3
Charlie Donaldson	2	5	7		2	2	4		4	7	11		7	4	11
Matty Donaldson	1	6	7		1	1	2		2	7	9		7	2	9
Connor Ferguson	1	5	6		1	2	3		2	7	9		6	3	9
Tai Fleming	9		9		4		4		13		13		55	7	62
A J George	9	1	10		3		3		12	1	13		14	3	17
Jaanai Gordon	3		3		1		1		4		4		31	10	41
Jack Harding	10		10		4		4		14		14		301	75	376
Prince Henry	4	2	6		3		3		7	2	9		6	3	9
Archie Hollyhead	6		6		3		3		9		9		6	3	9
Matty Ireland	2	3	5		2	1	3		4	4	8		5	3	8
Nico Jones	7		7		1		1		8		8		7	1	8
Keon Lewis-Burgess	4	1	5						4	1	5		5		5
Ramello Mitchell	2	2	4		1	1	2		3	3	6		4	2	6
Gift Mussa	4	1	5		3		3		7	1	8		5	3	8
Kgosi Ntlhe	2		2						2		2		2		2
Yaw Ofosu	10		10		3		3		13		13		10	3	13
Gedeon Okito	5	1	6		3		3		8	1	9		17	11	28
Alex Prosser	1		1						1		1		1		1
Dylan Reason	2	1	3						2	1	3		3		3
Harry Reilly	10		10		4		4		14		14		31	15	46
Zach Scott													8		8
Harvey Westwood	1	5	6			3	3		1	8	9		6	2	8

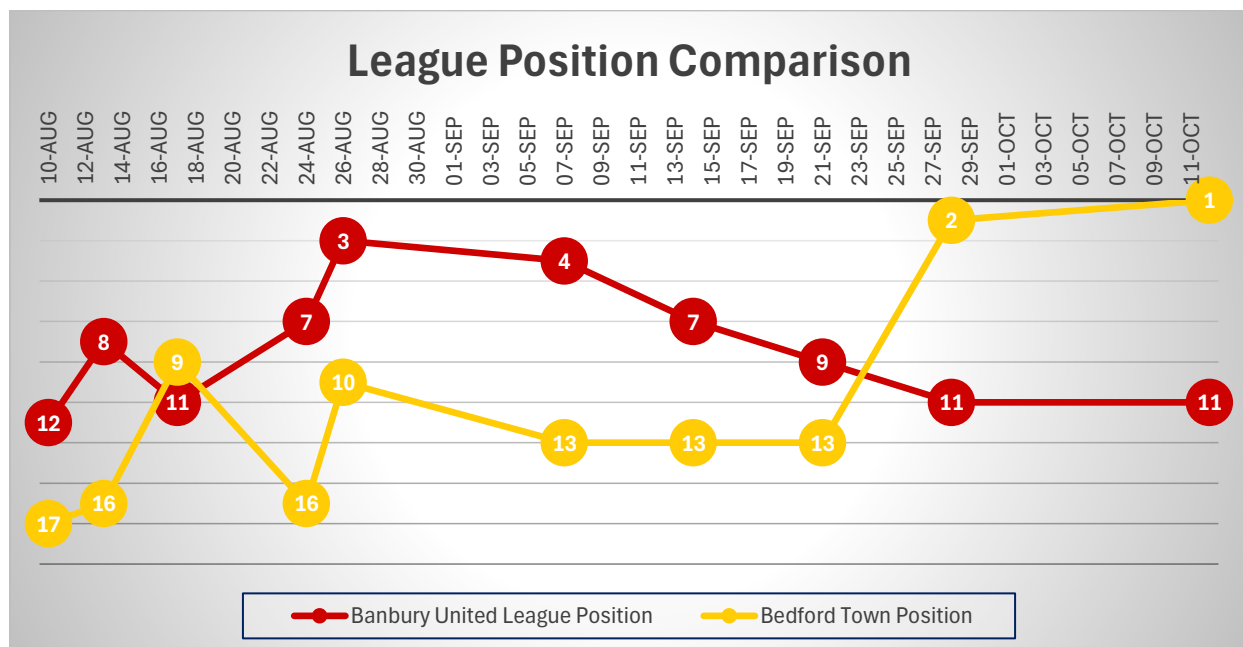
# Goal Scorers:

Name	Season 2024/25			Banbury United Career Totals		
	League	Cup	Total	League	Cup	Total
George Ball		1	1		1	1
Claudio Dias				6		6
Connor Ferguson		1	1		1	1
Tai Flemimg				2	1	3
AJ George	3	1	4	3	1	4
Jaanai Gordon	1	1	2	13	6	19
Jack Harding					1	1
Prince Henry	1	1	2	1	1	2
Yaw Ofosu		2	2		2	2
Harry Riley	1		1	2		2
Own Goal	1		1	1		1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>8</b>			



# Match Facts:

Date		Opponents	Result	H/T	Pos	Banbury United Goal Scorers	Opp Goal Times	Att
<b>LEAGUE GAMES</b>								
10 Aug	H	AFC Sudbury	D 1-1	1-0	12	George (42 pen)	53	440
12 Aug	A	Barwell	W 1-0	0-0	3	George (56 pen)		477
17 Aug	A	St Ives Town	L 1-2	0-0	11	George (90+7)	86, 89	274
24 Aug	H	Leiston	W 1-0	1-0	7	Henry (10)		550
26 Aug	A	Alvechurch	W 1-0	1-0	3	Own Goal (45+1)		502
07 Sep	H	Stamford	W1-0	0-0	4	Reilly (90+4)		778
10 Sep	H	Halesowen Town	L0-1	0-0	7		81	568
21 Sep	A	Royston Town	L0-1	0-1	9		24	357
24 Sep	A	Stratford Town	D1-1	0-0	9	Gordon (52)	86	864
12 Oct	H	Bromsgrove Sporting	D0-0	0-0	11			691
15 Oct	H	Bedford Town						
19 Oct	A	Spalding United						
22 Oct	A	Biggleswade Town						
League Goal Scorers: AJ George 3 (2 pen); Prince Henry 1; Harry Reilly 1; Jaanai Gordon 1; Own Goal 1								
<b>CUP GAMES</b>								
31 Aug	H	Dorchester Town	W2-0	1-0	FAC1Q	Ofosu (5), Ball (79)		458
14 Sep	A	Melksham Town	D1-1	1-0	FAC2Q	George (41 pen)	53	357
17 Sep	H	Melksham Town	L2-3	1-1	FAC2QR	Henry (11) Ofosu (89)	38, 55, 87	478
05 Oct	A	Plymouth Parkway	L2-3	1-2	FAT3Q	Gordon (32) Ferguson (73)	11, 40, 50	253
Cup Goal Scorers: Yaw Ofosu 2; George Ball 1; AJ George 1 (pen), Prince Henry 1; Jaanai Gordon 1; Connor Ferguson 1								



# Fixtures, Results and Line Ups – Season 2024/25

Date	Home / Away	Comp	Opposition	Result	Score	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	Subs:				
10-Aug	H	SLPC	AFC Sudbury	D	1 v 1	Harding	Reilly	Nithe	Fleming	Ofofu	Jones	Lewis-Burgess	Hollyhead	Westwood	George (1)	Ball	Donaldson M*	Dias*	Donaldson C*	Henry*	Reason
12-Aug	A	SLPC	Barwell	W	1 v 0	Harding	Reilly	Nithe	Fleming	Ofofu	Jones	Lewis-Burgess	Hollyhead	Reason	George (1)	Ball	Donaldson M*	Dias*	Donaldson C*	Ferguson*	Westwood*
17-Aug	A	SLPC	St Ives Town	L	1 v 2	Harding	Reilly	Okito	Fleming	Ofofu	Jones	Lewis-Burgess	Hollyhead	Reason	George (1)	Ball	Donaldson M*	Dias*	Ferguson*	Donaldson C*	Westwood*
24-Aug	H	SLPC	Leiston	W	1 v 0	Harding	Reilly	Okito	Mussa	Ofofu	Jones	Fleming	Hollyhead	Henry (1)	George	Ball	Donaldson M*	Lewis-Burgess*	Ferguson*	Reason*	Westwood*
26-Aug	A	SLPC	Alvechurch	W	1 v 0	Harding	Reilly	Donaldson M	Fleming	Ofofu	Jones	Dias	Lewis-Burgess	Henry	Ferguson	Ball	Ireland*	Mussa*	Donaldson C*	George*	Reason
31-Aug	H	FAC1Q	Dorchester Town	W	2 v 0	Harding	Reilly	Ireland	Fleming	Ofofu (1)	Jones	Mussa	Dias	Henry	George	Ball (1)	Donaldson M*	Cartwright*	Ferguson*	Donaldson C*	Westwood*
																			Reason	Elliott	
07-Sep	H	SLPC	Stamford	W	1 v 0	Harding	Fleming	Ireland	Mussa	Ofofu	Jones	Reilly (1)	Dias	Henry	George	Ball	Mitchell*	Donaldson M*	Donaldson C	Hollyhead	Westwood*
10-Sep	H	SLPC	Halesowen Town	L	0 v 1	Harding	Fleming	Okito	Mussa	Ofofu	Cartwright	Reilly	Hollyhead	Mitchell	George	Ball	Ireland*	Dias*	Donaldson C*	Henry*	Westwood*
14-Sep	A	FAC2Q	Melksham Town	D	1 v 1	Harding	Fleming	Okito	Mussa	Ofofu	Ireland	Reilly	Hollyhead	Henry	George (1)	Ball	Elliott	Donaldson M	Cartwright*	Donaldson C*	Westwood*
																			Reason	Reason	
17-Sep	H	FAC2Qr	Melksham Town	L	2 v 3	Harding	Fleming	Okito	Donaldson C	Ofofu (1)	Ferguson	Reilly	Hollyhead	Henry (1)	Mitchell	Ball	Ireland	Cartwright	Reason	Donaldson M	Westwood
																			Mussa	Elliott	
21-Sep	A	SLPC	Royston Town	L	0 v 1	Harding	Fleming	Okito	Dias	Ofofu	Ireland	Reilly	Donaldson C	Gordon	Henry	George	Mitchell*	Donaldson M*	Ferguson*	Hollyhead	Dobson*
24-Sep	A	SLPC	Stratford Town	D	1 v 1	Harding	Fleming	Cartwright	Dias	Ofofu	Mitchell	Reilly	Hollyhead	Gordon (1)	Donaldson C	George	Okito*	Ireland*	Ferguson*	Dobson*	Henry
05-Oct	A	FAT3Q	Plymouth Parkway	L	2 v 3	Harding	Fleming	Cartwright	Mussa	Okito	Donaldson M	Reilly	Hollyhead	Gordon (1)	Donaldson C	George	Ireland*	Dias*	Ferguson*(1)	Dobson*	Westwood*
12-Oct	H	SLPC	Bromsgrove Sporting	D	0 v 0	Harding	Reilly	Okito	Prosser	Ofofu	Jones	Cartwright	Mussa	Gordon	George	Ball	Donaldson M	Dias*	Donaldson C	Ferguson*	Henry
15-Oct	H	SLPC	Bedford Town																		
19-Oct	A	SLPC	Spalding United																		
22-Oct	A	SLPC	Biggleswade Town																		
02-Nov	H	SLPC	Hitchin Town																		
09-Nov	A	SLPC	Bishop's Stortford																		
16-Nov	H	SLPC	Stourbridge																		
23-Nov	A	SLPC	Harborough Town																		
30-Nov	H	SLPC	Lowestoft Town																		
07-Dec	H	SLPC	Kettering Town																		
14-Dec	A	SLPC	AFC Telford United																		
21-Dec	H	SLPC	Barwell																		
26-Dec	A	SLPC	Redditch United																		
28-Dec	H	SLPC	St Ives Town																		
01-Jan	H	SLPC	Alvechurch																		
04-Jan	A	SLPC	AFC Sudbury																		
11-Jan	A	SLPC	Stourbridge																		
18-Jan	H	SLPC	Bishop's Stortford																		
25-Jan	A	SLPC	Bedford Town																		
01-Feb	H	SLPC	Spalding United																		
08-Feb	A	SLPC	Hitchin Town																		
15-Feb	H	SLPC	Biggleswade Town																		
22-Feb	A	SLPC	Lowestoft Town																		
01-Mar	H	SLPC	Harborough Town																		
08-Mar	A	SLPC	Halesowen Town																		
15-Mar	H	SLPC	Royston Town																		
22-Mar	A	SLPC	Bromsgrove Sporting																		
29-Mar	H	SLPC	Stratford Town																		
05-Apr	A	SLPC	Leiston																		
12-Apr	H	SLPC	AFC Telford United																		
19-Apr	A	SLPC	Stamford																		
21-Apr	H	SLPC	Redditch United																		
26-Apr	A	SLPC	Kettering Town																		



**Simon HOLLYHEAD MANAGER**

George BALL  
 Tommy CARTWRIGHT  
 Claudio DIAS  
 Charlie DONALDSON  
 Matty DONALDSON  
 Logan ELLIOTT (GK)  
 Connor FERGUSON  
 Tai FLEMING  
 AJ GEORGE  
 Jaanai GORDAN  
 Jack HARDING (GK)  
 Prince HENRY  
 Archie HOLLYHEAD  
 Matthew IRELAND  
 Nico JONES  
 Gift MUSSA  
 Kgosietsile NTLHE  
 Yaw OFOSU (C)  
 Gedeon OKITO  
 Alex PROSSER  
 Dylan REASON (dual reg with Loughborough Students FC)  
 Harry REILLY  
 Zach SCOTT (On loan at Didcot Town)  
 Harvey WESTWOOD



**Lee Bircham MANAGER**

Devonte ARANSIBIA  
 Ryan BLAKE (C)  
 Josh BOORN  
 Oliver BOSWORTH (GK)  
 Sam BROWN  
 Ekow COKER  
 Kyle CONNOLLY  
 Henry DUDLEY  
 Josh FLANNAGAN  
 Lewis GREEN  
 Edward GWAMFI  
 Rob HALL  
 Rob HOWARD  
 Leon LOBJOIT  
 Jack MARSHALL  
 Nathan MCDONALD (GK)  
 Jordy MONGOY  
 Josh MULLINS  
 Dejon NOEL-WILLIAMS  
 Elliot SIMMONDS  
 Gucci SOULYA-OSEKANONGO  
 Samuel TINUBU  
 Connor TOMLINSON  
 Dequane WILSON-BRAITHWAITE  
 Albert WOOD

**TODAY'S  
MATCH OFFICIALS**

**REFEREE**  
Ashley ALLEN

**ASSISTANT REFEREE**  
Mawgan ANDREW

**ASSISTANT REFEREE**  
Coby WOODLEY

**UPCOMING AT THE BANBURY  
PLANT HIRE STADIUM**

**Banbury United v Hitchin Town**  
Saturday, 2<sup>nd</sup> November | 3.00PM  
Pitching In Southern League Premier Division Central

**Banbury United v Stourbridge**  
Saturday, 16<sup>th</sup> November | 3.00PM  
Pitching In Southern League Premier Division Central