

THE WHITE PAPER #61

KNOW YOUR ENEMY

REAL BEDFORD V
BARTON ROVERS



THE LEDGER STADIUM

SAT 28TH DEC • 3PM KICK OFF

THE PITCHING IN SOUTHERN
LEAGUE CENTRAL DIVISION ONE



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Gemini is honored to be part of Real Bedford's journey and look forward to supporting the club's continued success both on and off the pitch!

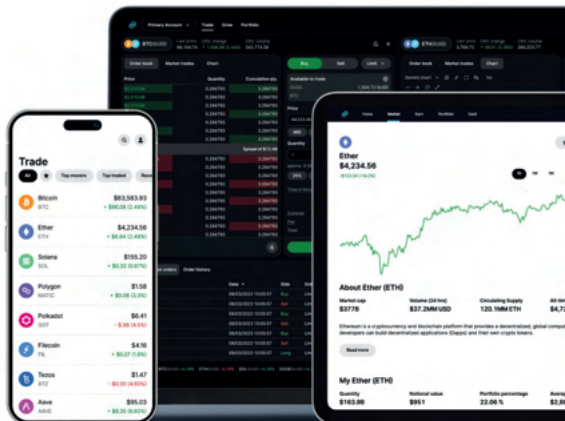
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THE PIRATES

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CHIEF EXECUTIVE
EMMA FIRMAN

CLUB SECRETARY
NEIL MCCORMACK

MEDIA
SEB HENDRIX
CURTIS TAYLOR

CLUB HISTORIAN
GEOFF SEAGRAVE

WOMEN'S FIXTURE SECRETARY
JENNY YILDIZ

HONORARY SECRETARIES
LUI LA MURA
ANDY GOODWIN

MANAGER
ROB SINCLAIR

ASSISTANT MANAGER
MARK DUCKET

COACHES
PETE THORNES
CHARLIE SMITH
IAN BROWN (GK)

PHYSIOS
LOTTIE BURTON
ALFIE JOHNSON

KITMAN
GEZZA

GROUNDSMAN
JACK MUDGE

CLUB HONOURS

22/23 SPARTAN DIVISION ONE WINNERS
22/23 BEDS COUNTY CUP WINNERS
23/24 SPARTAN PREMIER DIVISION WINNERS
23/24 SPARTAN PREMIER CUP WINNERS

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CHAIRMAN'S NOTES



Good afternoon and a very warm welcome to The Ledger Stadium, I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas. I enjoyed a quiet one with the kids where I made my first ever Christmas dinner. I think it was alright in fairness.

I'd like to welcome the manager, his team, the players, committee, and supporters of Barton Rovers. This marks our second meeting of the season, and we thoroughly enjoyed our visit to your ground last time out - your chairman made us feel incredibly welcome.

Of course, the last time we faced Barton Rovers, we came away with a 5-0 win, but we're fully aware of how well Barton have been performing since. They are now one of the form sides in the league, sitting in the playoff positions just three points behind us. I've seen first-hand what they can do, having watched them beat Berkhamsted earlier in the season, so I'm certain we're in for a great game today.

It's been a bit of a mixed week for us. We were 2-0 up against Aylesbury United before the floodlights failed in the second half, forcing the referee to abandon the game. I'd like to extend my apologies to our manager and players. Not only were we leading, but we were also well on top, and the result was shaping up to be another well-deserved victory. I'm sorry that you'll now have to go out and do it all again.

Unfortunately, this situation highlights one of the many challenges of running a football club. Football can be unlike any other business. No matter how hard you work or how thorough your planning, there are elements beyond your control. We had recently carried out a full review of our electrics and floodlights, yet something completely unforeseen caused the system to trip, and it took too long to get them back up and running.

On a brighter note, I'd like to congratulate the manager and the team on their excellent Boxing Day win against Dunstable Town. Matches like that can be tricky - they fall just after Christmas, the atmosphere is different, and it was an away fixture against a very good Dunstable side. To come away with all three points is a brilliant result.

Looking ahead, I will unfortunately be away for our New Year's Day fixture against Stotfold, as I'm heading out to Miami for work. I will be watching the stream, though, and wish everyone the very best of luck in my absence.

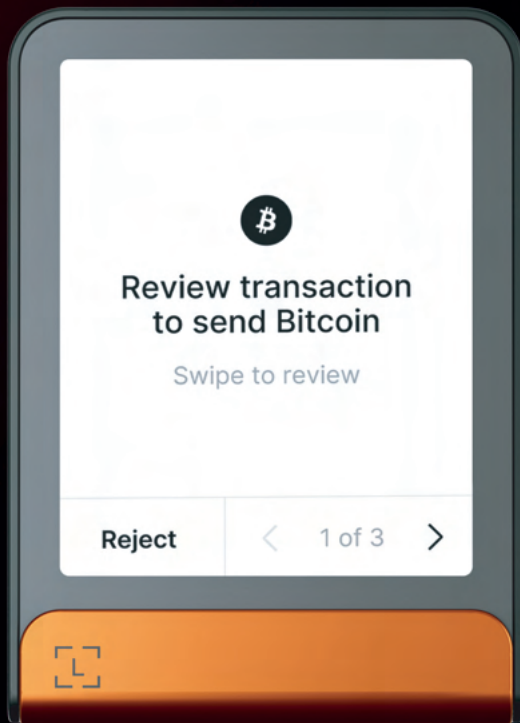
Finally, I hope everyone has a fantastic day here at The Ledger Stadium, and fingers crossed, we'll secure another three points. Thank you all for your amazing support. Enjoy the match!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peter McCormack". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

CHAIRMAN



Not your keys, not your Bitcoin.



MANAGER'S NOTES



Good evening, everyone, and welcome to tonight's match. First off, let me extend a warm welcome to Barton. We're delighted to have you here for what promises to be an exciting fixture.

Looking back on Boxing Day, I couldn't be prouder of the lads. Our away performance against AFC Dunstable was nothing short of brilliant. It might not have been the prettiest display in possession, but the effort and discipline off the ball were magnificent. The boys left it all out on the pitch, and they fully deserved the result.

Now, our focus shifts to an in-form Barton side. We know this will be a tough test, but it's one we're ready for. As always, the boys are excited and prepared to give everything for the club.

I'd also like to take a moment to recognise the incredible work happening behind the scenes.

From the coaching staff to the volunteers and everyone who plays a part in keeping this club running smoothly—your efforts don't go unnoticed. It's a privilege to be part of a team and community so passionate about what we're building together.

Finally, I'd like to thank you—the fans. Your support means the world to us, and we hope you all had a wonderful Christmas. Let's finish this year strong, and together, look forward to an exciting 2025.

Wishing you all a happy New Year. Let's enjoy the game tonight and keep pushing forward!

MANAGER



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CAPTAIN'S NOTES



First and foremost, I'd like to extend a warm welcome to Barton. We're looking forward to what should be a competitive and entertaining game this evening.

The past couple of weeks have been a bit frustrating for us, with results not quite going our way, and issues out of the clubs control. However, the boys showed fantastic character and determination to bounce back on Boxing Day. Our away performance against AFC Dunstable was a real testament to their spirit. It might not have been the prettiest football on the ball, but their work off it was absolutely superb. I couldn't be prouder of their effort.

Now, our attention turns to an in-form Barton side. We know they're going to provide a tough challenge, but we're up for it. The lads are ready and focused on delivering another strong performance for all of you here tonight.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank our incredible fans. Your support, both home and away, never goes unnoticed. We hope you all had a wonderful Christmas with your loved ones. As we approach the new year, let's look ahead to what we hope will be an exciting and successful 2025 for the club and for all of you.

Wishing you all a very Happy New Year—let's enjoy the game tonight and keep driving forward together!

Up the Pirates!

CAPTAIN



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REAL BEDFORD RETURN TO WINNING WAYS AFTER TWO FRUSTRATING WEEKS

CREASEY PARK

SOUTHERN LEAGUE • 26TH DECEMBER 2024



Real Bedford returned to winning ways with a hard-fought 1-0 victory over AFC Dunstable in a challenging and physical encounter. After a difficult fortnight, including a defeat to Kings Langley and a floodlight failure leading to an abandoned game last weekend, Bedford delivered a performance to secure all three points.

The game began with Bedford on the front foot, Joey Evans forcing an early save from the Dunstable keeper in the 2nd minute, followed by Richardson's header over the bar from the resulting corner. Moments later, Dunstable threatened with a free kick, but Bedford's keeper McGregor comfortably dealt with the effort.

As the first half progressed, Dunstable sought to test Bedford's defence. McGregor remained alert, catching a dangerous ball into the box in the 17th minute and parrying a shot from Oliver Spicer a minute later.

Bedford came close to breaking the deadlock in the 19th minute when Setchell's lofted ball found Evans, but his attempt to chip the keeper was well-read and caught. Despite further chances, including a corner that fell to Evans only for him to fire over from close range in the 34th minute, the sides went into halftime level.

Second Half

The breakthrough came early in the second half. A well-delivered cross from Ben Stevens in the 53rd minute found Evans in the box. After seeing multiple attempts blocked, Evans finally found the back of the net, much to the delight of the fans. The goal gave Bedford the lead and set the stage for a tense remainder of the match.

Dunstable responded strongly, with Enrico Greco showcasing excellent dribbling down the left flank in the 67th minute before his effort was superbly saved by McGregor. Ten minutes later, Sean Doudu found himself one-on-one with the Bedford keeper but dragged his shot wide, letting Bedford off the hook.

The final 10 minutes saw Dunstable pile on the pressure, but Bedford's defence stood firm, repelling wave after wave of attacks. McGregor's heroics and resolute defending from the back 3, ensured Bedford held onto their slender lead, securing a vital victory.

RBFC: McGregor, Morrell, S.Ward, Londgen, Richardson, Watkins, Nicolson (T.Ward 72'), Galliford (Agemoh-Davies 72'), Stevens, Setchell (Soile 89'), Evans (Hitchcock 84').

Unused subs: Mumford





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BARTON ROVERS

Barton Rovers Football Club, based in the village of Barton-le-Clay near Luton, was formed in 1898. Initially playing inter-village football, the club joined the Luton & District League in 1946 and progressed to the South Midlands League in 1954. Under manager Barry Reed, a former Leicester City and Luton Town defender, the club achieved remarkable success, including winning the Premier Division title multiple times. Barton Rovers also made history in 1978 by reaching the FA Vase Final at Wembley, losing narrowly to Blue Star. Their success continued with promotion to the Isthmian League in 1979, where they achieved notable league finishes and memorable runs in national competitions.

The club experienced a transitional period in the mid-1980s, with mixed results under various managers. By 1990, Barton qualified for the newly formed Isthmian Division Two. Manager Gordon Taylor brought stability, leading the club to promotion in 1994-95 despite severe financial challenges. Remarkably, the team achieved nine consecutive victories and gained promotion to the Isthmian League Division One. Barton also performed well in county cups during this era, signalling a return to form and steady progress.

The late 1990s saw fluctuating fortunes, including record league finishes and cup successes such as the Bedfordshire Senior Cup and the South Midlands Floodlight Cup. Managerial changes were frequent, with Ian Allinson's tenure marked by both stability and notable achievements. The early 2000s saw a focus on youth development, with several young players breaking into the first team. Barton competed well in league and cup competitions, including a memorable run in the FA Cup.

From 2007 onwards, Barton Rovers experienced challenges in maintaining league stability while continuing to build a youthful and dynamic squad. Gary Fitzgerald's leadership as manager during this period brought the club relative stability and development despite tough seasons. Highlights included strong performances by individual players and a successful run in the FA Trophy. By 2010, the club introduced a reserve team to support first-team development, a move that paid dividends in subsequent seasons.

The 2010s were marked by managerial changes and fluctuating league performances, but the club consistently achieved mid-table finishes and occasional playoff appearances. Under managers like Dan Kennoy and Richard Wilmot, Barton Rovers achieved their highest league positions and celebrated successes in competitions such as the North Beds Charity Cup and Beds Senior Cup. However, setbacks in playoff finals and managerial departures meant the club continued to face challenges in its pursuit of promotion.

In recent years, Barton Rovers have seen significant changes, including the appointment of Jimmy Gray and Tony Fontanelle in managerial roles. Despite playoff disappointments, the team has shown resilience, most notably with an inter-step playoff victory in 2023 under joint managers Leon Cashman and Jermaine Hall.

While Leon Cashman has since departed, Jermaine Hall remains in charge, continuing to guide the club as it navigates the challenges of non-league football with determination and ambition.



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Please visit
Pitchinginvolunteers.co.uk
to find out more



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FIXTURES

AUGUST '24

3	ST NEOTS *	2 - 3 (L)
10	HERTFORD TOWN	2 - 0 (W)
13	BARTON ROVERS	0 - 4 (W)
17	WELWYN GARDEN CITY	1 - 2 (L)
24	NORTH LEIGH	8 - 0 (W)
26	STOTFOLD	0 - 2 (W)

SEPTEMBER '24

7	WALTHAMSTOW **	1 - 2 (W)
14	LEVERSTOCK GREEN	0 - 3 (W)
20	LEIGHTON TOWN **	4 - 0 (W)
28	WARE	1 - 1 (D)

OCTOBER '24

1	LEIGHTON TOWN	P - P
5	BOWERS AND PITSEA **	3 - 0 (L)
12	THAME UNITED	7 - 2 (W)
19	HERTFORD TOWN	0 - 3 (W)
22	POTTON UNITED ***	4 - 1 (W)
26	FLACKWELL HEATH	0 - 1 (W)
30	ENFIELD	1 - 3 (W)

NOVEMBER '24

2	KIDLINGTON	5 - 1 (W)
9	BIGGLESWADE FC	6 - 2 (W)
12	LEIGHTON TOWN	0 - 0 (D)
23	HADLEY	1 - 1 (D)
30	NORTHWOOD	1 - 3 (W)

DECEMBER '24

7	BERKHAMSTEAD	P - P
10	LEIGHTON TOWN***	2 - 3 (W)
14	BEACONSFIELD TOWN	1 - 2 (W)
17	KINGS LANGLEY	3 - 2 (L)
21	AYLESBURY UNITED	P - P
26	AFC DUNSTABLE	0 - 1 (W)
28	BARTON ROVERS	H

JANUARY '25

1	STOTFOLD	H
4	NORTH LEIGH	A
11	WARE	A
18	LEVERSTOCK GREEN	H
25	WELWYN GARDEN CITY	A

FEBRUARY '25

1	FLACKWELL HEATH	H
8	KIDLINGTON	A
15	ENFIELD	H
22	BIGGLESWADE FC	A

MARCH '25

8	HADLEY	A
15	NORTHWOOD	H
22	BERKHAMSTEAD	A
29	BEACONSFIELD TOWN	H

APRIL '25

5	AYLESBURY UNITED	A
12	KINGS LANGLEY	H
19	LEIGHTON TOWN	A
21	AFC DUNSTABLE	H
26	THAME UNITED	A

* FA CUP

** FA TROPHY

*** BEDS SENIOR COUNTY CUP

TABLE

Southern League - Central Division One

	CLUB	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	+/-	PTS
1	BERKHAMSTED	20	16	1	3	58	27	31	49
 2	REAL BEDFORD	19	14	3	2	55	15	40	46
3	FLACKWELL HEATH	20	13	3	4	42	21	21	42
4	BARTON ROVERS	20	13	3	4	44	27	17	42
5	THAME UNITED	19	13	-	6	39	25	14	39
6	HADLEY	20	11	5	4	42	25	17	38
7	WELWYN GARDEN CITY	20	10	4	6	35	26	9	34
8	AYLESBURY UNITED	19	9	2	8	24	22	2	29
9	WARE	21	7	7	7	35	33	2	28
10	ENFIELD	21	7	7	7	30	30	0	28
11	AFC DUNSTABLE	20	8	4	8	27	38	-11	28
12	KINGS LANGLEY	20	6	6	8	33	34	-1	24
13	BIGGLESWADE FC	20	6	6	8	32	38	-6	24
14	BEACONSFIELD TOWN	21	6	5	10	28	32	-4	23
15	HERTFORD TOWN	19	5	6	8	27	35	-8	21
16	LEIGHTON TOWN	19	5	5	9	28	30	-2	20
17	STOTFOLD	19	6	2	11	19	38	-19	20
18	NORTHWOOD	19	5	1	13	21	40	-19	16
19	KIDLINGTON	20	4	3	13	24	47	-23	15
20	LEVERSTOCK GREEN	19	2	7	10	23	36	-13	13
21	NORTH LEIGH	21	1	3	17	15	61	-46	6

MATCHDAY SQUADS



PIRATES

TYLER MCGREGOR (GK)
ALFIE MUMFORD (GK)
DREW RICHARDSON
MALACHI SOILE
JACK MORRELL
BRETT LONGDEN
SHAHEIM WARD
ENIOLA AGEMOH-DAVIES
CALLUM NICOLSON
LEE WATKINS ©
TY WARD
ISAAC GALLIFORD
ARCHIE JONES
BEN STEVENS
JACK SNEUS
MO AHMED
HARRISON KNIGHT
JOSHUA SETCHELL
JOEY EVANS
TOM HITCHCOCK

MANAGER Rob Sinclair



BARTON

TYLER JOSEPHS
CHARLIE WARREN
CAMERON GROOM
RYAN NEUFVILLE
CAMERON HYDE
ROBBIE GOODMAN
CHRISTIAN SWABY
CHARLIE MILTON
TOM BAGGALEY
MASON WATKINS
ASHTON GRANT
MARTEL POWELL
ALFIE WARMAN
SAUL WILLIAMS
KIAN WILKES
JOSIAH RAMSAY
LUCAS KIRKPATRICK
MARKEL COUSINS
TRA LUCAS
MATT MOLONEY
JOHN SHAMALO
TAYLOR RHINEY
JAMAL OLAYINKA

MANAGER Jermaine Hall

