

THE WHITE PAPER #62

KNOW YOUR ENEMY

REAL BEDFORD V
BERKHAMSTED



THE LEDGER STADIUM

TUE 14TH JAN • 7.45PM KICK OFF

THE PITCHING IN SOUTHERN
LEAGUE CENTRAL DIVISION ONE



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Gemini's sponsorship, paid in Bitcoin, is one of the longest multi-year shirt deals outside of the UK's professional leagues. This innovative approach helps safeguard against high inflation while supporting the club's plans for a new training center and a youth academy for underprivileged children in Bedford.

Last year, our Co-Founders invested \$4.5 million into the club, and since then we've seen Real Bedford achieve two consecutive league promotions and multiple cup wins, boasting an impressive 81% win rate. This partnership reaffirms our belief in Real Bedford's potential to defy the odds and challenge the establishment, and we are excited for the club's future achievements.

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!

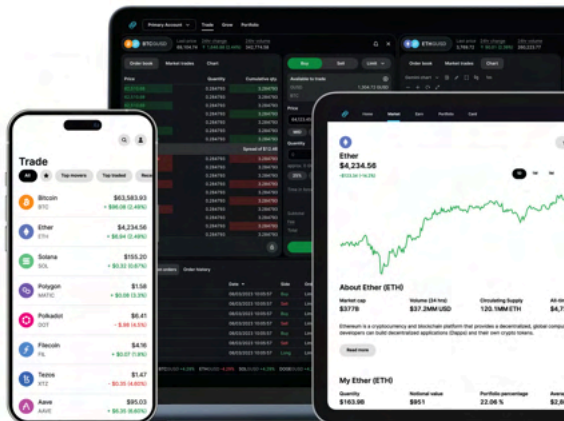
Onward and Upward!
The Gemini Team



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THE PIRATES

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VICE CHAIRMAN
CONOR MCCORMACK

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 evening everyone. It's my pleasure to welcome Berkhamsted's manager, his team, players, committee, and fans to the Ledger Stadium for what promises to be a quality game of football. With us sitting in second and Berko leading the pack, this is undoubtedly one of the standout fixtures of the season.

These are the games we're here for—two ambitious teams battling it out for the top spot. Whoever takes the three points tonight will end the evening at the summit of the table, while a draw will see Berko remain just ahead of us.

The stakes could not be higher, and I expect a cracking contest under the lights.

I must say, I'm a big admirer of what Berkhamsted have achieved in recent years. I closely followed their campaign against Bedford Town for the league title not long ago and have been impressed by their continued progress. Their investment in their ground, their club, and their community reflects the values that make non-league football so special. Berko are a club giving back to the game, and I genuinely believe that both of us would bring a lot to Step 3 of the pyramid.

Over the past few seasons, we've been fortunate to experience these league rivalries that define football. In our first season, it was Rugby Borough. Last season, MK Irish pushed us all the way. Now, it's Berkhamsted—

a strong, experienced side who know what it takes to succeed at this level. I have no doubt we'll be driving each other on until the very last game, and while tonight is an important step, there's still plenty of football to be played.

It's fantastic that we've been able to get this game on after it was postponed before Christmas due to the weather. Unfortunately, that's just part of non-league football this time of year, with so many matches falling victim to the conditions. I'd like to commend our manager, his staff, and the players for keeping their focus and fitness despite the disruptions. Saturday's win against Ware, where we came from behind to win 3-1, was a testament to their hard work and resilience. Ware were a tough side with some excellent players, but we showed great character to secure the points.

As we head into the second half of the season, I'm excited by the prospect of another title race. I hope we'll still be in the mix come the end of the campaign, but we know there are plenty of tough games ahead.

As always, I want to thank you, the fans, for your unwavering support. Our crowds continue to grow year on year, and your passion and energy make all the difference. I couldn't be prouder of what we've achieved so far.

Enjoy the game, and let's make some noise for the lads!

Up the Pirates,

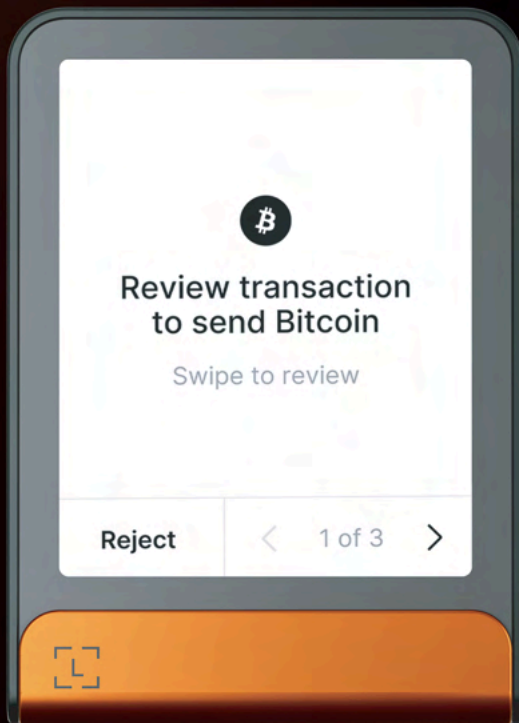


CHAIRMAN





Not your keys, not your Bitcoin.



MANAGER'S NOTES



Welcome to the Ledger Stadium as we host Berkhamsted tonight. It's great to see you all here, and I hope you're looking forward to what promises to be an exciting match.

After a frustrating couple of weeks with games being called off, it was fantastic to finally get back to action on Saturday against a strong Ware side. The boys showed great character, responding brilliantly after going a goal behind. Their energy and attacking play were superb, and it was a well-deserved 3-1 victory.

It was an outstanding away performance, and the team should be proud of the levels they reached. The only downside to the weekend was losing Ty Ward to injury. However, knowing Ty, his character and mindset will ensure he comes back stronger than ever.

Tonight, we face another tough challenge against a good Berkhamsted side. It's an exciting game, and the boys are prepared and ready to give their all once again.

Finally, I want to take a moment to thank all of you, the fans, for your unwavering support. Your energy and passion make a real difference to the team, and we'll do everything we can to give you a performance to be proud of.

Enjoy the game, and let's get behind the boys tonight!

MANAGER



www.coincorner.com

CAPTAIN'S NOTES



Good Evening, Everyone. Welcome back to The Ledger Stadium for what promises to be a highly anticipated top-of-the-table clash under the lights.

Firstly, I want to reflect on Saturday's performance against Ware. After going 1-0 down, the way the boys came out in the second half and turned the game around speaks volumes about the character and quality of this group.

Ware are a tough side who cause problems for a lot of teams, so we're thrilled to have taken another well-deserved three points away from home.

Despite the big win at the weekend, our attention quickly turned to tonight's game against the current league leaders, Berkhamsted. We know they're a strong team, which is reflected in their position at the top of the table. However, as always, we'll focus on our own performance.

If we can hit the levels we've shown in our last few games, we're confident we can secure another positive result and continue building momentum after a stop-start few weeks.

Looking ahead, we're back here at The Ledger Stadium again on Saturday to face Leverstock Green, last year's league competitors. It's another exciting fixture, and we're determined to keep delivering performances to be proud of.

Finally, I want to thank you all for your incredible support. It means so much to the team, and it makes a real difference on nights like these. Let's get behind the boys and make it a night to remember.

Come on you Pirates!

CAPTAIN



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BEDFORD SECURE ALL 3 POINTS AFTER A DOMINANT PERFORMANCE AGAINST BARTON

LEDGER STADIUM
SOUTHERN LEAGUE • 28TH DECEMBER 2024

BY WILL MURRAY



Real Bedford secured a second win in three days with a dominant 5-1 victory against Barton Rovers. Lee Watkins, Joey Evans, Eniola Agemoh-Davies and Isaac Galliford scored the goals for the Pirates in front of a crowd of 507 at The Ledger Stadium.

The visitors were looking to win their seventh game in a row in the league. They were up against it from the start of the game, though, as Bedford dictated the early proceedings. After only five minutes, Agemoh-Davies' cross found Ben Stevens on the edge of the box. His shot was parried to the feet of Watkins, who tucked away the rebound to put the home side in the lead.

Bedford doubled their advantage in the 10th minute when a misjudged back pass from a Barton midfielder put through Evans, who slotted the ball through the goalkeeper's legs. Rob Sinclair's side continued to create chances after their second, with Stevens, Josh Setchell and Jack Morrell all denied by impressive saves from Charlie Warren.

Evans came close to extending the home side's lead just before the break, hitting the post just before the referee blew his whistle.

Second Half

The visitors responded quickly in the second half, halving the deficit through a John Shamalo strike in the 49th minute. They opted for a higher press and earned a flurry of set pieces to challenge the Bedford backline. The home side restored their two-goal advantage just before the hour mark when Ty Ward played through Evans who slotted the ball home with his left foot, securing himself a brace.

After Bedford's third, there was a lull in the game as the home side looked to dictate the tempo with controlled passing in midfield. With 10 minutes to play, the Pirates ended any hopes of a Barton comeback when Stevens' cross from the right found Agemoh-Davies, whose left footed strike found its way into the bottom corner.

Both teams created late chances, with Evans narrowly missing the target from close range in the 89th minute. Galliford scored with the final kick of the game in the fifth minute of additional time, when his free-kick from the edge of the box nestled into the bottom corner.

After the match, manager Sinclair said:

"The energy and the intensity that the boys played at was brilliant to see. It's a quick turnaround, we'll train Monday and prepare for Stotfold."

RBFC: McGregor, Morrell, S.Ward, Londgen, Richardson, Watkins, T.Ward, (Nicolson 86'), Agemoh-Davies (Soile 90'), Stevens (Galliford 85'), Setchell (Knight 90+4), Evans (Hitchcock 90').



SECOND HALF COMEBACK SECURES IMPORTANT THREE POINTS ON THE ROAD

WODSON PARK
SOUTHERN LEAGUE • 11TH JANUARY 2025

BY WILL MURRAY



Real Bedford scored three second-half goals to secure an important 3-1 away victory against Ware at Wodson Park. The match was the Pirates' first of 2025 and moves them to within a point of league leaders Berkhamsted.

Coming into the game, Rob Sinclair's side had won nine out of their 10 away league matches. Ware tested their resolve in the early stages, though, and scored the opener in the ninth minute through Stefanos Georgiou.

Bedford struggled to break through Ware's compact shape throughout the first-half. The best chance for the visitors came in the 28th minute when Ben Stevens played through the in-form Joey Evans, but his effort was well saved.

The Pirates were unable to find the equaliser before the break, meaning they had work to do in the second half.

Second Half

Six minutes after the interval, Bedford levelled the match. Drew Richardson's perfectly weighted through ball over Ware's left-back found Josh Setchell, who squared the ball to Evans in the box. The Pirates' number nine tucked away the chance to give his side some much-needed momentum.

Bedford took control of the match after Evans' equaliser, creating numerous chances on the right-hand side through Setchell and Stevens.

The visitors were rewarded for their second-half dominance in the 67th minute when Evans played through Ty Ward, who calmly slotted the ball home to put Bedford ahead for the first time in the game.

Stevens was a thorn in Ware's side throughout the afternoon and put the match out of the hosts reach in the 86th minute when he volleyed the ball past the goalkeeper following some last-ditch defending.

Bedford had further chances in the late stages through Stevens and Tom Hitchcock but settled for an important 3-1 victory ahead of Tuesday's top-of-the-table clash against Berkhamsted at The Ledger Stadium.

After the match, manager Sinclair said:

"It's an exciting game on Tuesday. Everyone knows it's top against second, but we're not going to listen to the noise and it's another game of football we'll prepare for."

RBFC: McGregor, Morrell, Longden, S.Ward, Richardson, Galliford (Agemoh-Davies 80'), T.Ward (Nicolson 71'), Stevens, Setchell (Soile 90+3), Evans (Hitchcock 88').

Unused subs: Knight



Four soccer balls are positioned in the corners of the frame: top-left, top-right, bottom-left, and bottom-right. They are white with yellow and orange panels. The background is dark with a subtle, glowing grid pattern.

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VALENTINO ALESSI - A RISING STAR IN KARTING

Peter McCormack and Real Bedford are proud to sponsor Valentino Alessi, a talented and determined 14-year-old karting racer from Bedford, Bedfordshire. Valentino's journey into the world of racing began when he was just five years old, during a family holiday where he experienced the thrill of karting for the first time. Since then, his passion for motorsport has only grown, and he's been working tirelessly to turn his dream of becoming a professional racing driver into reality.

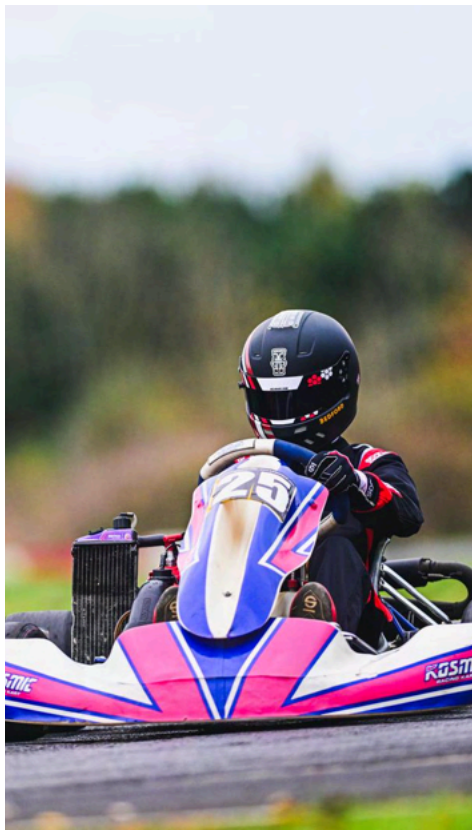
Valentino honed his skills at local tracks like Daytona in Milton Keynes and Team Sport in Dunstable, where he consistently pushed himself to set faster lap times. His dedication paid off when he broke age-group lap records and even posted times faster than Formula 1 star Lando Norris at Daytona—a feat that fueled his confidence and determination to reach the top.



In 2023, Valentino's talent caught the attention of Rob Smedley, who personally invited him to a Global Karting League practice session. This marked the beginning of Valentino's competitive career, and in 2024, he claimed victory in the Rookie Championship at Shennington Kart Track. His success earned him a promotion to the National Championship, where he gained invaluable experience racing against top competitors across the UK.

Now, as Valentino looks ahead to the 2025 season, he's set to compete in two major championships. He'll be racing in the Pro Championship with FAT Karting League, a prestigious electric karting series that will take him to tracks across the UK. In addition, he'll take on the Sprint Series at Fullbeck Kart Club, driving his private Kosmic Kart with a Rotax engine. These challenges promise to test Valentino's skills and determination as he continues to grow as a racer.

Valentino's journey is a testament to his hard work, ambition, and love for racing. He's committed to learning and improving with every lap, and his ultimate goal remains clear: to make it as a professional racing driver. We are thrilled to support Valentino as he pursues his dreams and takes the next exciting steps in his career.



@valentino.alessi.racing

PIRATES V LEVERSTOCK GREEN

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BERKHAMSTED

Berkhamsted FC, nicknamed "The Comrades," was established in 2009 under the guidance of experienced manager Micky Vipond. The club achieved immediate success, winning the Molten Spartan South Midlands League Division 2 title in its debut season with just two losses. The following year, they claimed the Division 1 title by an impressive 15-point margin, remaining unbeaten at home and earning the prestigious Sir Stanley Rous Memorial Trophy. This promotion saw them ascend to the Spartan Premier Division, where they competed for six years.

In 2018, under Steve Bateman's leadership and propelled by Matt Bateman's incredible 44-goal season, Berkhamsted earned promotion to the Southern League Central Division 1 as Premier Division runners-up. The club demonstrated consistent strength, and in 2020, they were leading the league when the season was abandoned due to the pandemic. In 2022, Berko finished as runners-up but fell short in the playoff semi-finals against North Leigh. Their persistence paid off in 2023 when they won the league title by a remarkable 19-point margin and secured the Herts Senior Cup, defeating Hitchin Town in the final.

The club debuted in the FA Cup in 2011, advancing past Crawley Green before bowing out in a replay against St Albans City. Berkhamsted reached their furthest progress in the competition in both the-

-2022/23 and 2023/24 seasons, making it to the 3rd qualifying round. They achieved notable victories over Ware, Witham Town, and Concord Rangers but ultimately fell to Banbury United and AFC Totton, respectively.

The 2023/24 season marked Berkhamsted's first attempt at competing at Step 3 level. While the team initially showed promise, the campaign ended in disappointment with relegation back to the Southern Central Division 1. Despite the setback, the club's fighting spirit remains evident as they continue to rebuild for the future.

The 2024/25 season has begun positively, with a strong pre-season and a Herts County Cup victory over Hemel Hempstead from the National League South. This promising start reflects the club's resilience and ambition to climb back up the football pyramid.

Berkhamsted FC derives its nickname, "The Comrades," from the servicemen who founded the club over a century ago. Alongside the first team, the club supports a vibrant football community, running a midweek under-18s side in the Southern Counties Floodlit Youth League and a ladies team competing in the Beds & Herts Women's League. Their dedication to nurturing talent and fostering inclusivity ensures a bright future for the club.



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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	5 - 1 (W)

JANUARY '25

1	STOTFOLD	P - P
4	NORTH LEIGH	P - P
11	WARE	1 - 3 (W)
14	BERKHAMSTEAD	H
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	21	17	1	3	60	27	33	52
2	REAL BEDFORD	21	16	3	2	63	17	46	51
3	FLACKWELL HEATH	21	14	3	4	45	21	24	45
4	BARTON ROVERS	22	14	3	5	47	32	15	45
5	HADLEY	22	12	6	4	45	27	18	42
6	THAME UNITED	20	13	-	7	39	27	12	39
7	WELWYN GARDEN CITY	21	10	5	6	35	26	9	35
8	AYLESBURY UNITED	20	10	2	8	27	22	5	32
9	WARE	25	8	8	9	41	39	2	32
10	ENFIELD	23	8	7	8	33	35	-2	31
11	LEIGHTON TOWN	22	7	6	9	36	32	4	27
12	BIGGLESWADE FC	21	7	6	8	35	38	-3	27
13	AFC DUNSTABLE	22	8	3	11	27	43	-16	27
14	BEACONSFIELD TOWN	24	6	7	11	31	37	-6	25
15	KINGS LANGLEY	22	6	6	10	34	38	-4	24
16	HERTFORD TOWN	21	5	8	8	29	37	-8	23
17	STOTFOLD	20	6	2	12	19	42	-23	20
18	NORTHWOOD	20	6	1	13	22	40	-18	19
19	KIDLINGTON	21	4	4	13	24	47	-23	16
20	LEVERSTOCK GREEN	21	2	8	11	25	41	-16	14
21	NORTH LEIGH	22	1	3	18	15	64	-49	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 **SNELUS**
MO **AHMED**
HARRISON **KNIGHT**
JOSHUA **SETCHELL**
JOEY **EVANS**
TOM **HITCHCOCK**



BERKHAMSTED

JOSHUA **BOWLER (GK)**
SIMEON **OLARERIN**
JACK **TOMPKINS**
MAX **ROSNER**
CHARLIE **JOHNSON**
DAN **NEWTON**
BEN **WALSTER**
ROSS **OULTON**
JORDAN **FREDERICK**
ADAM **WATKINS**
TOM **NEWMAN**
LUKE **ANDREWS**
JONATHAN **LACEY**
MATT **BATEMAN (C)**
BJ **CHRISTIE**
LOUIS **COLLIER**
ROGER **JAMES**
RAYAN **CLARKE**
MATT **BURCH (GK)**

MANAGER Rob Sinclair

MANAGER Chris Devane

