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## THE PIRATES

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CHIEF EXECUTIVE EMMA FIRMAN

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ANDY GOODWIN

MANAGER ROB SINCLAIR

ASSISTANT MANAGER
MARK DUCKET

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CHARLIE SMITH
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KITMAN GEZZA

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

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#### CONTENTS



6
CHAIRMAN'S NOTES
PETER MCCORMACK

8 MANAGER'S NOTES ROB SINCLAIR

IO CAPTAIN'S NOTES LEE WATKINS

I4 MATCH REPORT V STOTFOLD 17
THE AWAY TEAM
BEACONSFIELD TOWN

19 NON-LEAGUE PAPER JON COUCH

22
FIXTURES/TABLE
SOUTHERN CENTRAL DIV ONE

24 MATCHDAY SQUADS PIRATES V BEACONSFIELD

#### CHAIRMAN'S NOTES



I'd like to start by extending a very warm welcome to the manager, his team, the players, committee, and travelling supporters of Beaconsfield. We're delighted to have you at The Ledger Stadium this afternoon. Our game earlier in the season was tough, Conor and I had the chance to watch them in action last week as they put in a strong performance to beat Berkhamsted. We know Beaconsfield are a serious threat and we're expecting another proper challenge today.

For us, the numbers are clear. After a hard-fought draw at Berkhamsted and a solid win against Stotfold, the picture is set. Six games. Three wins. That's the job. Nine points from our remaining fixtures would all but confirm another promotion, thanks to our +41 goal difference over second place. But nothing is guaranteed. We've seen it before—teams raise their game when they smell the chance to derail a title run. No one is going to hand this to us.

Of course, it's a fool's game to count chickens before they hatch. But as Chairman, it's my job to be ready for all possibilities. Should we be lucky enough to lift a third league title, we will be prepared for what comes next. There's a lot happening behind the scenes, with plenty of attention on the proposed merger with Bedford Town. Naturally, people are asking questions. All I can say for now is that conversations are ongoing, and hopefully there'll be some news to share in due course.

If promotion to Step 3 becomes a reality, the mission remains the same: we want to compete and push for promotion again. But let's be honest—this is going to be our toughest campaign yet. Step 3 is a different beast. Bigger clubs, bigger budgets, bigger crowds. I've watched a few matches at that level this season and you can feel the shift in intensity.

Unlike previous years, where we've seen more of a two-horse race for titles, Step 3 this season is a proper dogfight—five teams at the top, all strong, and a solid chasing pack behind. It's exactly the kind of challenge we want. We're here for it.

Our women's side are facing a similar path. After absolutely thumping Luton Town 5-0 in the County Cup final, they followed up with a win against Chesham on Sunday. One more win from their last three games will secure the league title. They haven't been beaten all season, and I have every confidence they'll get the job done. A league and cup double to follow last season's treble would be a phenomenal achievement. But let's not get ahead of ourselves—the points still need to be earned. Tier 3 in the women's game is also a significant step up, just one tier below the Championship. We're not ready for that level yet, and we won't be next season either, so the focus now is on building over the coming years to be able to compete properly when the time comes.

So, we could be heading into a very special few weeks for the club, with the potential to bring home three more trophies across our teams—adding to the seven we've already picked up in the last two years. That's a huge statement. I'm proud of what we're building and grateful to every single person who's playing a part in it.

Back to today—three more points will be another big step towards where we want to be. Best of luck to my manager and his team this afternoon.

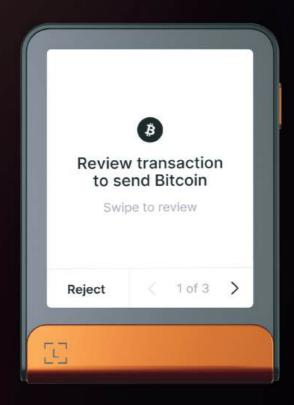
Enjoy the game. Up the Pirates!

7 - 1-1-

CHAIRMAN



# Not your keys, not your Bitcoin.



#### **MANAGER'S NOTES**



Good afternoon, everyone, and welcome back to The Ledger Stadium as we face Beaconsfield Town.

We know today presents a different kind of challenge. Beaconsfield are a strong side, well-organised, with quality in key areas and the ability to mix up their shape and approach. They can be direct when needed, but they also have the players to move the ball well and control possession. That means we have to be ready for different scenarios and stay sharp throughout the game. However, we've prepared well. Training on Thursday was excellent—the energy, focus, and commitment were all there. If we bring that same intensity today, we give ourselves the best possible chance of getting the result we want.

On Tuesday, we faced an in-form Stotfold side and came away with a deserved win. But we had to work for it. In the first half, we were too loose in possession, giving the ball away cheaply and making it harder for ourselves, and of course the red card to Stotfold's No.9 changed the game completely, however it would still be a challenge. We addressed it at half-time, and the response in the second half was outstanding.

We dominated the game, controlled the tempo, and were ruthless in attack. That second-half performance is our benchmark. When we play at that level—when we're disciplined, sharp, and aggressive in our play—we are a very difficult side to handle.

Today is another opportunity to build on that. We know what we're capable of, and we know what's at stake. Every game matters, and every performance builds momentum. From the first whistle, let's impose ourselves, be positive in our play, and show the desire and commitment needed to take all three points.

Finally, a massive thank you to the fans. Your support makes a huge difference, home and away. We hear you, we feel it, and we'll do everything we can to give you a performance to be proud of.

MANAGER

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#### **CAPTAIN'S NOTES**



Welcome back to Ledger Stadium! After another fantastic result against a determined Stotfold side, we come into today's fixture 15 games unbeaten in the league.

To sustain a run like this is a true testament to everyone involved - players, staff, and supporters alike. It speaks volumes about the character and mentality within this group, ensuring we don't take our foot off the gas or allow complacency to creep in.

Tuesday night's first half may not have been our finest display, but in the second half, we took full control, especially with the advantage of playing against 10 men. It was a professional performance that saw us dominate proceedings and secure another vital result.

The squad has recovered well, quickly shifting focus to this afternoon's tough fixture against Beaconsfield.

We know from our previous encounter, as well as their recent victory over Berkhamsted, just how much of a threat they pose. It's crucial we show the right attitude, maintain our intensity, and put in another high-quality performance to secure all three points in front of you, our incredible home support.

With just a handful of fixtures remaining, we have a challenging run-in, including a trip to Buckinghamshire to face Aylesbury away, where we'll be looking to extend this outstanding unbeaten streak.

Your support has been immense all season, and we truly appreciate every bit of it. So, thank you once again. Up The Pirates!

CAPTAIN



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### SIX GOALS AND SIX POINTS CLEAR AS THE PIRATES DOMINATE TEN-MAN STOTFOLD

LEDGER STADIUM SOUTHERN LEAGUE • 25TH MARCH 2025

#### BY WILL MURRAY





Real Bedford extended their lead at the top of the Southern League Division One Central table to six points, beating ten-man Stotfold 6-0 at the Ledger Stadium. Lee Watkins, Archie Jones, Joey Evans, Ben Stevens and Tom Hitchcock scored the goals for the Pirates.

Before the match, Southern League director Steve Hyde presented Captain Lee Watkins with the February Team of the Month award, for a second month in a row, showcasing the teams fantastic form of recent.

The visitors looked dangerous in the first 15 minutes, pressing high and coming close to opening the scoring after a succession of corners. Josh Setchell also had the opportunity to score early on after being sent through by Stevens, but his effort was blocked by Alfie Bonfield.

Rob Sinclair's side had efforts through Drew Richardson, Evans and a glancing header from Jack Morrell, but they continued to struggle to break down a well-organised Stotfold defence.

The game changed in the 23rd minute, though. Richardson and Ashley Kersey challenged for the ball, and when the Pirates' number two landed, Stotfold's striker stamped on Richardson, meaning he was given a straight red card.

It didn't take long for the hosts to take the lead with a man advantage. In the 26th minute, Eniola Agemoh-Davies' shot from the left was parried straight to the incoming Watkins, who tapped home from close range.

One became two just before the break. After Jones' effort was initially blocked, he fired home the second attempt past Bonfield to double the lead.

#### Second Half

Four minutes into the second half, the Pirates scored the third. Richardson expertly flicked the ball through to Evans, who descended on goal and confidently slotted home.

The chances kept on coming against a tiring Stotfold side. Evans, Setchell and Jack Snelus all had notable opportunities to make it four, but they were unable to find a way past Bonfield, who made a number of impressive saves on the night.

The Pirates scored the fourth via Stevens in the 65th minute. Brett Longden found the Pirates' number 10 over the top of the visitors' defence, and he fired a powerful right-footed shot in off both the crossbar and the post to extend the lead further.

Three minutes later, Evans picked up his second of the night. Agemoh-Davies, who returned to the starting lineup in place of Isaac Galliford, sent through the in-form striker, who easily tucked the ball home.

Tom Hitchcock was the final change of the night, replacing Agemoh Davies in the 74th minute. The 32-year-old looked lively on the night, coming agonisingly close to adding a sixth in the 86th minute when his header from a Stevens cross went just wide of the post.

He scored a deserved goal just before the final whistle, receiving the ball from Setchell and striking a first-time, right-footed effort into the bottom left corner.

After the match, Sinclair said:

"It wins you games of football. If you can keep the balls out of the back of your net, with the quality we've got, I'd like to think we're going to score goals. Impressive from everyone – it's a collective to get clean sheets, so I'm really happy."

RBFC: McGregor, Morrell, S.Ward, Longden, Richardson (T.Ward 65'), Watkins, Jones (Nicolson 59'), Galliford (Agemoh-Davies 59'), Stevens, Setchell (Snelus 70'), Evans (Hitchcock 70').





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# GOALS

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### BEACONSFIEID TOWN

would later become Beaconsfield Town FC.

Initially competing in the London Spartan Premier Division under Chairman Fred Deanus, Beaconsfield Beaconsfield Town FC officially emerged in 2017/18, with SYCOB consistently finished in the top five before Meakin returning as manager and Chris Coyle as winning the league in 2000/01. However, promotion to Chairman. The club underwent a near-complete squad the Isthmian League was denied due to lease-related rebuild, and an incredible away record helped them technicalities. After three more seasons in the Spartan secure the Evo-Stik League South, East title on the final South Midlands Premier Division, they clinched the title day of the season. Competing at Step 3 for the first time. again in 2003/04 and secured promotion to the Southern the club finished 12th in the newly formed Evo-Stik Football League (Division One East). Their early years at League South Premier South and reached the FA Trophy Step 4 saw them play in multiple divisions, but a First Round, bowing out to eventual finalists Leyton relegation in 2006/07 was followed by an incredible Orient. The disrupted 2019/20 and 2020/21 seasons saw treble-winning season under manager Jamie Jarvis, significant off-field developments, including the securing the Spartan South Midlands title, the Berks & formation of an academy and multiple youth and Bucks FA Senior Trophy, and the Premier Division League women's teams, along with the installation of a new 3G

Returning to Division 1 South & West, Beaconsfield February 2023 saw managerial changes, with Gary SYCOB finished fourth and reached the play-offs but lost. Meakin departing and Tristan Lewis arriving as Technical to AFC Totton. The club then moved to the Southern Director, appointing Jon Underwood and Neil Baker as League Midland Division and experienced fluctuating joint managers. Underwood later became sole manager fortunes, with a series of managerial changes and a for the 2023/24 season, but the club suffered relegation bottom-place finish in 2010/11. A league restructure saved after losing the final six matches. In response, them from relegation, and under Byron Walton, they Beaconsfield Town opted for a fresh approach, bringing reached the 2011/12 play-off final before narrowly losing in the highly experienced Garry Haylock as manager with to Bedworth United. The following season, under James Sam Togwell as his assistant for the 2024/25 campaign, Pritchard, another fifth-place finish saw them fall short in as they aim to rebuild and push for success once again. the play-offs again, though they did lift the Berks & Bucks FA Senior Cup after beating Chesham United.

Beaconsfield Town FC may have been officially formed in Gary Meakin took over in 2013 just days before the the summer of 2017, but its roots trace back to season began, assembling a team from scratch and Beaconsfield SYCOB, a club established in 1994 through a achieving an impressive eighth-place finish while also merger between Beaconsfield United and Slough Youth reaching the League Cup guarter-finals. In 2014/15, a Centre Old Boys, Beaconsfield United itself dated back to partnership with the FAB Academy saw young players 1921, while Slough Youth Centre fielded its first football form the bulk of the squad under Andy Hurley and Nas team in 1938. Struggling with ground provisions and Bashir, continuing under Geoff Warner in 2015/16. The performance challenges, the two clubs united to form 2016/17 season, led by Hurley and Leigh Wooldridge, Beaconsfield SYCOB, laying the foundation for what ended with a 16th-place finish, though the club made history by reaching the FA Cup Fourth Qualifying Round for the first time.

pitch in 2021.





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TIME flies when you're having fun and that's certainly the case here at The NLP. On Wednesday, March 26 we celebrated our 25th anniversary since the paper hit the newsstands.

In the years since, we've been lucky enough to have a front row seat to the heartbeat of English football. We've seen an increased profile of this level of the game, a jump in professionalism, more than one restructure of the Pyramid and written about countless teams, players, managers, clubs, grounds and results!

Stuart Pearce implored top clubs to unearth Non-League treasures on the front cover of The NLP's first ever edition - and what good advice it has proved! The England legend famously took that path himself, beginning at Wealdstone before going onto have a decorated career at the very top of the English game.

Pearce joined the Essex Senior League's Non-League Day groundhop last weekend to see the impact of the Premier League's Stadium Fund, which has distributed more than £207 million in grants to over 1,000 men's and women's clubs throughout the English Football League, National League and football pyramid.

The fund, like The NLP, is celebrating its 25th anniversary and Pearce smiled when looking back at issue one of The Non-League Paper. "It's incredible – and 25 years later Dan Burn walks out in an England shirt," Pearce told The NLP. "That's a great point in case. A lot of players get released from academies and it can diminish their spirit but it shouldn't necessarily do that.

"In fact – and I got released from QPR as a 13-year-old – it should inspire you to prove people wrong. "I think all of football was delighted to see Dan Burn arrive in an England shirt.

For what he's doing for his club, a hometown boy if you like, and his pathway, it sends a great message out to youngsters that you don't have to be a superstar to start with. If you're determined, dogged, then you've got every opportunity."

Kevin Ellison was on target the weekend The Non-League Paper was launched...and he's still doing the business for Step 4 Vauxhall Motors now at the age of 46! The then-winger was on target for the Robins in a 1-1 draw with Kettering Town, one of the final points they picked up that season.

Ellison excelled, earning a move to Premier League Leicester City a year later, but a late slump saw Alty relegated after a season back in the Nationwide Conference.

"I'd have rather not had a good season and we stayed up," Ellison told The NLP. "Getting back into the English pyramid was a big thing for me then, I'd been playing in the League of Wales.

"Altrincham gave me that great opportunity to go pro. I owe them a lot. You dream of it as a little boy. "It didn't happen for me when I was younger because clubs were telling me I wasn't good enough, then five or six years ago they were bidding for me when they could have had me for free!"

Ellison recalls how keeping track of his career was a bit different at the turn of the century. "I used to get the Manchester Pink and the Liverpool Echo, my regional North West papers," he said. "My mum used to cut out write-ups on me. "It was probably harder then for your ability to get recognised. "Look at how many lads are uploading YouTube clips now? We didn't have that then, but that's not a negative.

"I'm fortunate to have played in old school football and the fast paced tempo game now. "People will say the game was a bit slower then but it felt like it was more 'proper' football. "Has the game changed for the better? Who knows. "You should never forget your roots, even when I was in League Two I was still picking up my copy of The Non-League Paper."

Thanks Kev and to everyone else who has supported us through the years. Here's to the next 25 years!

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\*\*\* BEDS SENIOR COUNTY CUP

#### FIXTURES

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AYLESBURY UNITED

AFC DUNSTABLE

BARTON ROVERS

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		SEPTEMBER '24										
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1	2	THAME UNITED	7		2			MARCH '25				
1	9	HERTFORD TOWN	0			(W)						
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TABLE

#### Southern League - Central Division One

	CLUB	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	+\-	PTS
1	REAL BEDFORD	34	27	5	2	108	28	80	86
2	BERKHAMSTED	35	25	5	5	85	44	41	80
3	FLACKWELL HEATH	34	21	5	8	75	38	37	68
4	BARTON ROVERS	34	20	7	7	62	43	19	67
5	HADLEY	34	18	9	7	73	45	28	63
6	THAME UNITED	33	19	5	9	68	50	18	62
7	LEIGHTON TOWN	34	16	8	10	55	41	14	56
8	WELWYN GARDEN CITY	34	14	8	12	53	48	5	50
9	BEACONSFIELD TOWN	35	12	11	12	54	49	5	47
10	WARE	35	10	15	10	52	48	4	45
11	BIGGLESWADE FC	33	12	9	12	51	56	-5	45
12	HERTFORD TOWN	35	11	11	13	49	56	-7	44
13	AYLESBURY UNITED	34	14	2	18	41	52	-11	44
14	ENFIELD	33	10	10	13	52	54	-2	40
15	AFC DUNSTABLE	34	11	7	16	40	59	-19	40
16	STOTFOLD	34	10	7	17	45	72	-27	37
17	KINGS LANGLEY	34	8	9	17	44	51	-7	33
18	KIDLINGTON	34	7	5	22	35	77	-42	26
19	LEVERSTOCK GREEN	33	4	12	17	36	58	-22	24
20	NORTHWOOD	32	7	3	22	33	68	-35	24
21	NORTH LEIGH	34	1	5	28	20	94	-74	8

#### 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



#### BEACONSFIELD

TOMMY DYMOTT (GK) CHARLIE SMITH LIAM-RHYS JENKINS IBBY SANKOH KINGSTON WHITE-GLEAN TROY SILVERA JACQUES KPOHMOUTH BENJAMIN TRICKER MATTHEW HARRIOT JOSHUA MARCON AKIEL RAFFIE AVTANDILI AKHSIASHVILI ELIAS GRANT JOSEPH LAWAL MANUCHIM OKE-WILLIAM USMAN LALUSTANI OLIVER SAUNDERS TROY WILLIAMS

GEN

