



Savage F.A.

Luton Town start the season on minus 30 points

Vol. 3, No. 1, August 2008

The Football Association this week upheld the 10 point penalty imposed upon Luton Town FC for financial irregularities carried out by the previous administration. This is on top of the 20 point penalty imposed by the Football League (and the 10 points they were docked last season).

So what? You might ask. What has this got to do with my Sunday morning football? In fact, whether you support Watford or Wimbledon in Milton Keynes, you should be disturbed by this draconian penalty. Any club outside the Premier League could be next. Football in England is now completely split between the money-soaked Premier League, where clubs can do virtually what they want (remember that the FA would not impose a 3-point penalty on West Ham for blatant breaches of the rules because that would have meant relegation for Sir Trevor Brooking's team) and between all the rest.



The footballing authorities in this country merely pay lip service to grass roots football: the Charter Standard scheme is poorly administered and papers over the cracks of a lack of interest in clubs which don't generate cash. The new National Strategy for grass roots football will result in another load of glossy publications from the FA and no action. Our own club has, since February, been trying to set up a coaching scheme to encourage girls to take part in our Club. The County FA has failed to carry out the simplest of promises to make this happen and we will now have to wait another year to establish a girls team.

Over many years in local football I have seen standards of play and behaviour decline alarmingly. Referees are leaving the game in droves and most local leagues are a fraction the size they were years ago. This is a result of a lack of respect from players and spectators for officials and the football authorities. The FA have to realise that respect has to be earned and is a two-way process. Until the FA show respect for all clubs outside the Premier League I can only see the decline in local football continuing.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/sport/football/news-and-comment/the-nick-townsend-column-this-penalty-wont-bring-sunshine-into-murky-waters-872325.html>

These are the personal opinions of the Editor and do not necessarily represent the views of the Club. If you have any comments or wish to reply to the above, please e-mail secretary@lpspg.co.uk.

Committee Gears Up for the New Season

This year the Club will be running ten teams. A list of committee members is given below—for full details check the website at www.lpspg.co.uk and click on 'Contacts'.

President/General Secretary/Treasurer: Steve Smith 01462 712279
Chairman/North Home Counties Secretary: Greg Whelan 07887 752995
Vice-Chairman: Archie Conway 01582 722567
Head of Youth Football/Under 12s: Phil Toyer 01462 711211
(Under 12s assistant: Bryan Seago 01462 643428)
Youth Development Officer/Under 11s: Paul Boggon 01462 850993
Child Welfare Officer/Under 14s: Greg Nunn 01462 815797
(Under 14s assistant: Adrian Bell 01582 493045)
Chiltern Youth League Secretary/Under 18s: Mark Hill 01582 526382
Chiltern Sevens Secretary/Under 10s (Saturday): Paul Cutler 01582 503284
Filmergraphics Secretary/Under 10s (Sunday): Neil Adams 01462 812317
First Team Manager: Richard Randall 07817 364453
Second Team Manager: Ed Thomson 01462 450633
Under 9s: Chris Steer 01462 815918
Under 8s: Anna Jones 01462 811554



Thank You to our Sponsors

With a number of new teams this season we have been on the lookout for kit sponsors. A big thank you to the companies who have so far agreed to help us out. Please reward their support of the club by putting business their way if at all possible.

Under Eighteens: Form IT Ltd.



For many years the Club has been sponsored by Premier Computer Supplies. Premier have now changed their name to Form IT Ltd. to reflect the wider nature of their business.

Contact Hugh Byrne on 01582 572727

E-mail: hugh.byrne@weshapeit.com

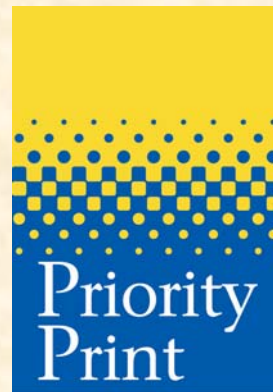
Under Eights: Priority Print Ltd.

We provide an in-house design, platemaking and printing service. We pride ourselves on Quality, Service and Competitive Prices.

Contact Andy Lomas

Unit 18, Apex Business Centre, Boscombe Road, Dunstable, LU5 4SB.
Telephone: 01582 607410 Fax: 01582 607416 ISDN: 01582 720212

Email: sales@priorityprint.co.uk



Under Elevens: Troup Bywaters & Anders

For 50 years TB+A has helped UK and international companies, government agencies and developers turn their vision into reality. Our nationwide network of consulting building engineers and designers work with institutional and commercial clients across a wide range of sectors and disciplines to create award-winning engineering designs that bring their buildings to life.



Chartered Building
Services Engineering
Consultants
www.TBandA.com

Contact: Neil Panton
020 7565 5666
n.panton@tbanda.com

Under Fourteens: Luton & District Roofing Contractors

Contact: Adrian Bell 01582 493045

Car Parking

Next season there are likely to be many Sundays when three games are taking place simultaneously. This will place a great strain on car parking spaces, so please park carefully and share transport whenever possible.

Don't Forget the New Website Address: www.lspsg.co.uk

Training Nights:

Under 8s: Mondays 6.30-7.30 Under 9s: Thursdays 6.30-7.30 Under 10s: Fridays 6.30-7.30

Under 11s: Saturdays 11.30-12.30 Under 12s: Saturdays 10.15-11.15 Under 14s: Wednesdays 7.30-8.30

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Forecast—Hot Showers

Lottery Grant for Clubhouse Improvements

Vol. 3, No. 2, September 2008

After a wait of nearly three months, the Sports & Social Club has learned that its application for funding to renovate the showers has been successful. Awards for All, which is part of the Big Lottery Fund, has awarded the Club just under £5,000 to replace the hot water tank, pipework and shower heads on the ageing system. It is expected that the work will take place around the end of October.

SUCCESSFUL END TO THE MONTH

- First XI take the Premier Cup. Under 14s win the Flitwick Tournament

The First Team ended their pre-season preparations undefeated. In the final match of August they played out a 3-3 draw with Premier Cup holders Leaside: the point thus gained was enough to take the trophy for the first time since 1995. Iain Temple, one of the scorers for Lea Sports the last time they won the trophy, appeared for Leaside this time around, but could not prevent his old club taking the lead through Richard Knock. Leaside scored a tremendous equaliser before the home side went ahead again through a penalty converted by Richie Bevan. Leaside equalised again before Andy Van Hoof scored Lea Sports' third. A Leaside penalty ensured a nervous last few minutes before the celebrations could begin. (Full details are available on the website at www.lpspg.co.uk).

A great performance from the u14 side saw them collecting the winners trophy in the Flitwick Eagles pre season tournament at Redborne School on Saturday 30 August.

They managed to go through the tournament without conceding a goal. Defenders Eliot, Andy, Sam & Jack kept most threats at bay and in form keeper Warren produced some fine saves. The midfield players Brad, Matty, Adam Tom & Yusuf worked hard helping out at the back & pushing forward on attacks, Strikers Cameron & Enrico provided some excellent shots on goal. After five wins against, Shillington- 2.0, Dunstable- 2.0, Flitwick- 4.0, Beds Park Rangers- 1.0, And Luton Leagrove- 2.0. Lea Sports PSG found themselves in the final against Bedford Town. This was a very closely contested final highlighted by two great saves from Warren who turned a long range shot over the bar and then pushed another round the post. Matty nearly clinched the match in the last seconds of normal time with great effort denied by the Bedford keeper. End of extra time still saw both teams level. It was down to a penalty shoot out to decide the victors with Yusuf, Sam, Jack & Brad all scoring and Warren saving Bedford's third & fourth this gave Lea Sports a 4-2 win.

A great day and a well deserved win which should give them confidence for the new season. See photo overleaf—for more pictures go to www.lpspg.co.uk and click on 'Special Occasions'.

Under Eights, Elevens and Twelves Start Life With A Defeat

Playing their first ever match—in brand new kit sponsored by Priority Print—the Under Eights went down to a 3-1 defeat away to Luton Borough Dragons on Saturday 16th August.

The squad of Alex Seago, Kieran Jones, Luke Breacher, Louis Lomas, Luke Nar-roway, Archie Medlock and Ryan Quinn found the going tough in their first ever competitive match and a goal from Louis Lomas was not enough on the day.

Nevertheless, it was good experience for the lads and they are now looking forward to their league season in the Filmergraphics League.

The Under 11s and Twelves both played their first 11-a-side matches but fared no better. The Under 11s lost narrowly to Toddington Rovers (2-3) with goals from Jake Edwards and Curties O'Connell, while the Under 12s played well at Ampthill but were caught out by there being no linesmen and eventually lost 5-1. George Calvert scored their consolation goal.



Under Tens Struggle for Players

The Under Tens Saturday side has been forced to pull out of the Chiltern Sevens League because of a lack of players. Paul Cutler only had five players signed on as the league deadline for registrations approached. It is hoped that by combining the Saturday and Sunday teams, we will have enough players to continue. Anyone interested in playing for the Under Tens should contact Head of Youth Football Phil Toyer (01462 711211).

Friendlies Cancelled

For the first time ever, we have had a friendly match in August cancelled because of the weather! The First Team game at Crawley Green, scheduled for August 14th, was cancelled after heavy rain all afternoon. Meanwhile, the Reserves turned up at Caddington for their friendly on August 24th—only to find that the home side could not field a team!

Reserves Get A Shock!!

The Reserves got a bit of a surprise in their first pre-season warm-up match against Mark Hill's Under 18s. The youngsters raced into a 3-0 half-time lead, with Jordan Murray scoring twice and Roan Wedderburn grabbing a third. The Reserves steadied the ship in the second half and recovered with goals from Mark Williams, Ollie Palmer and Phil Thompson to snatch a 3-3 draw. Jordan added a further 3 goals in the Under 18s' friendly vs. Bushmead—unfortunately it wasn't enough as the lads lost 3-6.



Under Fourteens take the Flitwick Tournament Honours.

More pics at www.lspsg.co.uk in 'Special Occasions'

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Reserves Hit Top Spot

5-3 Win Over Nearest Rivals

Vol. 4, No. 2, October 2008

Phil Thompson notched another hat-trick as the Reserves swept past unbeaten Hexton to move into top spot in Division 4. Ben Thomson scored a penalty and Mathew Hill scored a well-taken goal as the Reserves maintained their excellent unbeaten start to the season. Latest tables are on the website at www.lpspg.co.uk.

The hat-trick gives Phil 5 goals so far this season as he tries to defend his Golden Boot. He is under serious threat, however, from James Hirst from the Under 12s. Last week, when the Under 12s beat Leighton United 5-0, James notched four of the goals. This week he did twice as well! The Under 12s overpowered Bedford FC 'C' by a massive 16-0 and James scored 8 of them.

For the Under 11s Thomas Boggon and Curties O'Connell have scored six times each as the Under 11s

maintain their good start to the season (7 points out of 9 in the league and a County Cup win over Brady Maccabi by four goals to nil). The Under 12s have also taken 7 points from 9 and have a goal difference of plus 21!

The First Team, after winning the pre-season Premier Cup tournament, have had a mixed start to the season with a win, a defeat and a draw, although eight players were missing from the side in the 2-2 draw with Woodstock.

The Under 18s struggled without their regular keeper in an opening day defeat to Toddington Rovers, but bounced back with a 2-1 win away to Limbury Saints, while the Under 14 have also recorded a win, a draw and a defeat in their opening three games.



County Cup Focus

Although the Under 11s have already opened their County Cup campaign, the other youth teams will join the competition on October 5th.



The Under Eighteens have a tough tie vs. Hitchin Town at Pirton at 2 pm and at the same time the Under 14s face Comets Sports Club Hawks from Hemel Hempstead.

The Under 12s play in the morning against London Maccabi Lions.

The Reserves are away to Green Dragon in Bushey on October 12th and a week later the First Team also have a journey to make—to Tring Royals in the Intermediate Cup.



Mixed Start for the Mini-Soccer Teams

After an advert in the local papers failed to attract new players, the Under 10s began the season with just one team playing on Sunday mornings. Although the squad has only just come together they have put in some good performances, narrowly losing their three opening games. The Under 9s have fared better, winning two of their 3 games, although they did suffer a 5-1 defeat at the hands of Kempston Colts. The Under 8s have won 2 of their 3 grading games, losing 8-4 away to Leighton Town at the end of the month after wins against Leighton United 'B' and Sandy Colts. Edward Clarke, Joshua Evans and Louis Lomas have all scored three times for the Under 8s, while Sam Boggon has four for the Under 9s.

(Under 10 goalscorers unknown at time of writing).

The mini-soccer teams will be competing for the Mini Golden Boot this year—presented to the top scorer across the seven-a-side teams.

Club Gets A Mention in 'Hertfordshire Life'

Lea Sports PSG got a mention in the September edition of Hertfordshire Life when the magazine published an article on the village of Pirton.

Apart from a good write-up I think they managed to capture my good side.....



Left Steve Smith at Blacksmiths pond, plus two of the village's football teams



'Scratch the surface
and you will find a
host of activities'

— Steve Smith, Pirton Sports and Social club

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County Cup Round-Up

Firsts Win 2-0 in First Visit to Tring

Vol. 4, No. 3, November 2008

The first team eased past their opponents Tring Royals in the first round of the Sunday Intermediate Cup. In their first visit to the town, the Firsts took an early lead and could have made the game safe by half time. In the end they had to survive some awkward moments against a very ordinary Tring side before making the game safe with a second goal after half time.

The Reserves, meanwhile, had high hopes of maintaining their tradition of long cup runs in the Hertfordshire Junior Cup. The omens looked good when they raced into a 3-0 half-time lead at Borehamwood against Green Dragon. The second half was a different story, however, as a flood of goals took the game into extra time, with Lea Sports eventually succumbing 5-6.



There were plenty of goals in against Hitchin Town too—who scored them all as our Fourteens made amends in Sports Club from Hemel

the Under Eighteens' match and unfortunately it was Hitchin lads went down 8-0. The Under their home game against Comets Hempstead winning 14-0.

In similar fashion to the Reserves, the Under 11s took an early substantial lead in the League Cup away to Sundon Park Rangers. In the end though it was the same story as they too went down 6-5 after extra time. A week later the lads came up against Letchworth Garden City Eagles in the County Cup. Despite holding their own early in the match, the Under 11s couldn't maintain their pressure and in the end Letchworth ran out 9-0 winners. The victors did give credit to our Under 11s on their website, praising the 'superbly prepared pitch' and thanking their 'gracious hosts'.

Mini-Soccer Round-Up

The Under Tens started the month well with a 1-0 victory over high-flying Houghton Regis. Kane Pope scored the all-important goal, but it was Kyle McCaffrey who made sure of the points with an amazing double-save in the very last minute. Unfortunately, the Under 10s haven't been able to maintain their winning ways and have gone down to two narrow defeats since then: 4-5 at home to Wilstead Harriers, despite leading 2-1 in the second half; and 2-3 away to Bedford FC 'C'.

The Under 9s have had a tough October. They lost away in the rain to Langford on October 5th by a 1-5 scoreline and the following week conceded 12 against Celtic, scoring just one in reply. The home game against Leighton Town provided no relief as the lads went down 1-6. Two new players have just joined the squad, however. Older club members will hope that Will Spain-O'Leary will emulate the goalscoring feats of his Dad Will O'Leary; whilst Lewis Hargreaves has joined us from Stotfold to bolster the midfield.

The Under 8s played their final two Group D grading games in October. They went down 2-4 at home to Mid-Beds Tigers 'B', despite goals from Louis Lomas and Alex Seago, before rounding off their grading matches with a 3-1 win away to Bedford Panthers. They now find themselves grouped with the teams listed on the right for the season's fixtures staring in November.

- AFC Dunstable Youth 'A'
- Caldecote Youth
- Langford Youth
- Lea Sports PSG
- Mid Beds Tigers 'B'
- Templefield Old Boys
- Toddington Rovers



One Hope Left For The County Cup

The First Team and Under 12s both bowed out of their respective County Cup competitions on November 16th, leaving just the Under 14s to carry the flag. The First Team put in a below-par performance in the rain against Bradmore Rovers. Trailing 3-1 at half-time, there was some improvement in the second-half, but not enough to prevent the visitors winning 4-2. The Under Twelves had key players missing for their trip to Cassiobury Rangers, near Watford. Despite putting up a brave fight and scoring three excellent goals they finally went down by a 5-3 scoreline. The Under 14s put in a tremendous performance to win 4-2 at Hammer Youth and progress to a Third Round tie away to London Maccabi Lions on December 14th.

NEWS SNIPPETS

Heaven's Kitchen!

Go to any U8's home game and you are in for a real treat! Not only will you see some exciting football but you will also be able to enjoy the culinary delights of a hot bacon roll and a good Cuppa.

The U8's have raised an astounding £120 in just a few weeks by offering this service to cold and bedraggled supporters and Anna Jones and the Club would like to say a huge thank you to Suzy Narroway, Julie Ensbury and Julie Clarke for giving up their time – Gordon Ramsey watch out!

Under 14s Recognised

Five of our Under Fourteen team have been selected for the Bedfordshire County Team. The players to achieve this recognition are: Warren Bell, Tom Hignell, Yusuf Mushtaq, Matt Baxter and Bradley Turner. Well done to all the boys.

Speedy Recovery...

Whilst we're on the subject of the Under Fourteens...everyone at the Club wishes a speedy recovery to Cameron Alexander who tore knee ligaments while playing rugby. The injury will keep Cameron out until the end of the season, but we all wish him well and hope to see him back in the red and black stripes soon.

Pavilion

The changing room project is inching forward. The latest stage is an application to North Hertfordshire for £1,000 grant towards the planning application costs. Plans should be submitted shortly for a new changing room block to be built between the existing club-house and the shed.

Showers

At long last the hot water tank supplying the showers has been replaced, along with new shower heads and pipework. The new thermostat, valves and pump should also make the water temperature much easier to control and ensure hot showers for all.

Car Parking/Lighting

We are still finalising prices for moving the posts to extend the car-park. At the same time as the posts are being moved we will install some lighting to create a training area next to the garage. Hopefully we will be able to secure grant funding for the project.

ALL THE RESULTS AND FIXTURES AT: www.lpspg.co.uk

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