2ND | 3 PM | SG18 0AA BIGGLESWADE UNITED

wade

otball

COCKFOSTERS FC

2ND | 2 PM | LU2 9AG CRAWLEY GREEN RES VS BUFC RES

3RD | 2 PM | SG18 0AA BUFC WOMEN REDS VS HARPENDEN TOWN WOMEN

OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME BIGGLESWADE UNITED

recycline









In aid of

hospice care



EINANCIAL PLANNING



Personally, I have always felt that sometimes experience can be overrated. An over-emphasis on the values of what has been learnt in the past can frequently lead to an inertia, an unwillingness to innovate, to look forward and instead rely on what served you well once, even though it might not necessarily be what is required to succeed in the future. A lack of experience can be an advantage because it inevitably means that you have to learn on the job, appreciate the need to be flexible even as you make mistakes along the way, as you inevitably will. There is nothing wrong with making mistakes - they are all part of the growing process - although there is everything wrong about not learning from them.

From the start Jordan and Gaz gave me the impression that they had a clear plan in mind, they knew what they wanted to do and clearly showed me that they were players that had the mindset of coaches.

In training, warm-ups, pre-match talks and tactical adaptability during games they have shown that they possess in abundance those skills required to become very good coaches indeed.

But over and above all those vital attributes the most important thing they have built is a magnificent team spirit, a 'musketeerial' unity among the whole squad that has served us well so far this season and is one of the main reasons why we are still unbeaten in the league after six games.

It is still very much a work in progress and the essence of our game which relies on pressure high up the pitch, a high defensive line and a concentration on keeping the ball can still be improved although the indications are that we are heading very much in the right direction.

Sometimes we need to be finding that extra pass in midfield that can open up defences, learn not to rush things as we sometimes do, as well as be more disciplined so as to avoid unwanted cards that can accumulate and then create problems for us further down the road.

Our midfield is not the tallest, nor is it the most physical, but it is nonetheless perfect for the type of high pressure and quick release of the ball type of game that we are looking to play.

Up to now apart from the one blip against Bury Town in the FA Cup we have been superior to every team that we have faced.

We are scoring a lot of goals (18 in just six league matches) and importantly they are coming from all over the pitch. We are currently blessed to have a strong, and sufficiently big, squad all of who can make an impact at this level which is comforting in the event of players being unavailable because of work, holidays or suspension as is currently the case following Jaiden Irish's somewhat harsh red card against Tring Athletic which means he will sidelined for the next three games.

I am confident whoever is chosen to come in as his replacement will be more than up to the task not least because because the atmosphere and spirit around the club and the whole squad at the moment is superb.

We are currently top of the table, fun to watch and our attendances are creeping up. Long may it continue.

Onwards and upwards

Guillem Balagué biggleswadeunited@gmail.com



Biggleswade United Football Club was re-formed on the 16th July 1959. However, local history records indicate that there was a Biggleswade United side playing at Second Meadow as early as 1929. Our first season (1959/60) saw us competing in Division Three of the North Herts. League (NHL). After 10 successful years in the NHL the club made the step up to South Midlands League (SML) football. But towards the end of a 15-year association with the SML the club began to struggle and after three years of finishing in the bottom three of Division One we sought fresh fields. The club joined the Herts. Senior but club continued to find the going tough. In 1986 we elected to return to local League football, joining the Bedford and District Football League and began to build again.

The appointment of Brian Swords as first team manager in 87/88 proved to be the turning point in the club's fortunes. During the next ten years the club achieved a tremendous amount of success on and off the football pitch. Our record of League and Cup honours speak for themselves but aligned to this a great deal of work went on behind the scenes to match the on-field success. The club now boasts one of the best clubhouse and ground facilities in the Mid-Bedfordshire area. The success of the club also attracted many new players as well as commanding a great deal of loyalty from those players who helped the club progress from Division Three of the Bedford and District League to County Senior Club status in just 15 years.

The 1995/96 season was the most successful in the club's history - winning five major honours; the Beds Intermediate County Cup, Bedford and District League Championship, League Cup Championship and as the League's representatives the club won the Beds. FA Centenary Cup. Having won every major Bedford League honour the club felt it was time to move on and made the decision to make the step up once again and returned to Division One of the SML. In an exceptionally successful first season we celebrated a Division One "double" by winning the Championship and the Division One Cup. We also retained the Beds. FA Intermediate County Cup, only the second club in the competition's history to achieve this feat. To crown our success the club were awarded the SML Special Achievement Trophy in July 1997.

In the season 1997/98 we finally achieved Senior status. This was achieved not only through the endeavours of the players on the field but ultimately as a result of an extremely hard working committee. With the help of the Biggleswade Town Council a new stand was erected and perimeter fencing installed. And two seasons later the club erected floodlights and on the evening of 26th October 1999 we played our first-ever floodlit game at Second Meadow, Ryman League side Leighton Town were the visitors in the Bedfordshire Premier Cup.

The next eleven years saw the first team led by Steve "Snowy" Wright and under his management the club continued to enjoy a very high level of League and Cup success ultimately achieving promotion to the Molten Spartan South Midlands League Premier Division and with it the opportunity to compete in the FA Cup. And under Snowy the club made three Beds FA Senior Challenge Cup final appearances, winning two of the three with victories over Stotfold (4-1) and Leighton Town (1-0) but missed out in 2006/07 going down 2-0 to Dunstable Town. Snowy's other cup successes came in the form of the Hunts Premeir Cup, North Beds Charity Cup, Hinchingbrooke Cup, the SML Division One Cup and the SML Special Achievement Award once again. The end of the 2006 2007 saw Snowy step down as manager with his assistant, Nick Burton taking over the first team reins. January 5th 2009 saw the club embark on further ambitious ground improvements. With financial backing from Biggleswade Town Council, Mid Beds District

Council and the Football Foundation we installed a 260-seater stand, fully enclosed the ground with a double turnstile entrance and players' secure walk-way which raised the ground to Grade E status. After several years of stability in terms of first team managers the next six years saw a regular turnover of first team and reserve team managers with Nick Burton, Dave Elkin and Phil Childs all taking over the first team reins for a time.

At the start of the 2013 2014 season we appointed Mick Reardon and Mark Royal as first team managers both of whom had enjoyed success as coaches at the higher levels of football. Their disciplined approach was quickly adhered to and responded to by the players and under their stewardship we achieved the highest Premier Division position in nine years and first silverware in seven years winning the North Beds Charity Cup for the first time in the club's history.

In November 2014 the club took a further positive step to realise our ambitions with the appointment of Sky Sports Presenter and renowned author, Guillem Balaque as Biggleswade United's Director of Football. Following Mick and Mark's decision to step down at the end 2014 2015, Guillem was guick to act and recruited a new Head Coach in Cristian Colas Beccera. Cristian was assisted by former professional player, Stuart Bimson, and under their guidance the team finished in eighth spot in the Premier Division in 2017 2018 - the highest position in the club's history. Having built a strong reputation for their outstanding coaching ability and playing philosophy Cristian and Stuart moved up to Step 3 level club, Staines Town, for the start of the 2018 2019 season. Guillem was again in search for a high quality coach and Jimmy Martin came highly recommended by his predecessor, Colas, who worked with Jimmy at Stevenage FC Academy. Jimmy was appointed Manager in May 2018 but he tendered his resignation in October 2018 having been offered a "hard to refuse" opportunity to take up a coaching role at Premier Division club Watford. Despite the setback the first team went on to record their highest ever League placing – a fourth spot in the Premier Division.

In the season 2019 2020 the club were sitting in a highly commendable third position in the Premier Division and under the management of Chris Devane and Trishnan Patel were hoping for a promotion play off opportunity. However, in March 2020 the season was decalred Null and Void by the FA after the devastating outbreak of the Coronavirus. The club were also to learn that Chris and Tishnan had accepted the offer to work at Step 4 and departed the club at short notice. Fortunately the club were able to call upon the services of former Head Coach Cristian Colas Cristian took the club to its highest ever position in the club's history at the curtailmant of the 20/21 season leaving us second in the table on PPG. The club applied for promotion to Step 4 but were unsuccessful. A double whammy came when the club were subjected to a lateral move to the Uhlsport United Counties League. The FA's actions had a devastating effect on the club and we spent most of the 2021 2022 season at the foot of the table. But we rallied and secured Step 5 football on the final day of the season. The club have now been re-instated in to the SML and with a strong squad will be looking to put that season's nightmare in to a distant memory and push on to return as a top of the table club.

With the nightmare season confined to the history books we kicked on and finished a very creditible 8th in the Premier Division but the highlight of the season was achieving the best ever run in the FA Vase. Starting at the qualifying round stages we came through five rounds reaching the fourth round proper but fell to Coventry Sphinx. At the end of a great season Cristian Colas made the difficult decision to step down after 7 (-2) seasons as head coach.Two United players came forward with the right experience, credentials and knowledge of the football world at this level and the next and the decision was felt to be the right one. Gareth Hunt, who had captained the side and had been instrumental in helping us through the difficult season, will be partnered with Jordan Wright who captained the FA Vase winning Newport Pagnell Town team. Highly respected by their peers we are confident that Gaz and Jordan will see us enjoy further success in the years to come.

The club has certainly come a long way in relatively few years but we could not have done it without the help of a very supportive Town and District Council who clearly understand the benefits of having a community based club in Biggleswade. Our success is also very much down to a very hard working committee who throughout the year - not just the football season - continue to volunteer their time and commitment to the club, to help it continue to thrive and be a source of enjoyment for our supporters and the Biggleswade community.







CHARLIE MANN (GK) NEO DONOGHUE (GK) JERRELL CATO PRINCE MADU JASON BECK JAY LOVELL AIDEN READ **OLLIE FINCH CHRIS GRIFFIN JOE ENTWHISTLE** MATT THOMSON LUCA GORDON **ANTONIO MICHAEL CORY UGBOMAH GEORGE LUTAAYA ETHAN ROOKARD** HARRISON ROOKARD **GEORGE SIPPETTS** RYAN MCMENEMY **CONAL CASSIDY** EGAN NTEGE **BAIROH BUNDU GLENN DRAPER**

MANAGER - GAVIN KELSEY ASST MANAGER - GLEN DRAPER COACH - PHIL LOVELL



OLLIE LESLIE (GK) TOM WYANT (GK) CALEB CHANDLER (GK) **MEKHI ANGOL JOE BABBAGE CALEB CHANDLER MARKEL COUSINS AARON DADA CALLUM ELLIOTT** SAM GIBSON **GARETH HUNT CONOR INSKIP JAIDEN IRISH (CAPT.) JORDAN JARROLD MILO KEANE ANTHONY LESLIE JESUS MENDOZA SAM MOORE JACK SHERWOOD CADE STEPHENS-ABBEY JAKE STRONGE JOSH STURNIOLO MASON WATKINS-CLARK COREE WILSON**

JOINT TEAM MANAGERS: GAZ HUNT & JORDAN WRIGHT COACH: DEL DIGWEED & MARTIN RUSSELL **GK COACH: JOSH THOMAS** PHYSIO: LILY HYDE







HREOUR CLUBHOUSE

WRITE TO KAREN AT CLUBHOUSE@BIGGLESWADEUTD.COM

OUR OPPONENTS

The Club was originally formed as Cockfosters Athletic in 1921 by local residents and the ground allocated to the Club by Lady Bevan, from her family estate.

2000: Youth football was re-introduced to the Club

2002/03: The club introduce an U18 side to compete in the Southern Counties Floodlit Youth League.

2007/08: With the elevation of the 1st team into the Spartan South Midlands League's Premier Division the Club accepted into the FA Challenge Cup for the first time in their history.

2013/14: The U18s win the SCFYL. Cockfosters form partnership with Whetstone Wanderers & enter U13 - U18 teams in the Eastern Junior Alliance.

2014/15: U18s were SCFYL Olympian Division winners, beating Luton Town in the SCFYL's Divisional Winners Play-off Final.

2015/16: The U14's made a clean sweep of everything, winning the EJA's Herts (Brown) Division, the EJA U14 Divisional Play-Off Final, the EJA U14 Challenge Cup and the Middlesex FA County FA's U14 Cup.

2016/17: A successful campaign. 1st Team finish 3rd in the SSML Prem & Reserves R/up in the U25 Development Div.

2017/18: The U18s were Runners-up in the SCFYL's Delphian Division. The U13s won the EJA Herts (Green) Div. and also the AFA County Youth Cup & runners-up in the LFA Sunday Youth Cup.

2018/19: U14s win the EJA div & reach 2 County Youth Cup finals & U17s also reached a County Youth Cup final.

2019/20 The FA moved us laterally from the Spar-

tan South Midlands Leagues top division to that of the Essex Senior League

2019-20 and 2020-21 Covid19.

2021-22 1st team reach Essex Senior League Cup Final but are defeated 2 — 3 by Enfield FC

Under 18s clinch the EJA Black Division and the Under 15s win the London County Cup.

2022-23 Our under 18s clinch the Quadruple by winning the Southern Counties Floodlight League with 100% record, defeat Uxbridge o-3 in the Middlesex Senior Youth County Cup Final, defeat Erith Town o-4 in the U18 London County Cup Final and also defeat Long Lane 4-0 in the U17 London County Cup Final.

The First team finished strong in the SSMFL and along with the Reserves (development squad) continue to provide a genuine pathway from youth to seniors for those ready from the ages of 16





Biggleswade United Vets are looking for players to join the team for the upcoming season. We are a team of over 35's that play matches and train every Monday. So if you still want to play or just miss having a kickabout why not get in touch with us.



SPONSOR DAY

19th August 2023, a beautifully sunny day where Biggleswade United Football Club welcomed our new Sponsors.

A lovely buffet provided by Neil Manship with drink and chat across the afternoon, the guests were thrilled to be part of this amazing club especially with an exciting match that resulted in a draw but plenty of ups and downs through the course of the match - something for everyone! Guillem our chairman gave the tour of our facilities and discussed the ethos of the club and the ambitions for the future.

A fantastic day had by all and already looking forward to the next event, hopefully late Spring.

Thank you to our amazing Sponsors and here's to a long and happy relationship.

Thank you for your continued support.

In aid of

photo credit: Tia Thorne

spice care

d to associate with Keech Hospice Care

istered Charity No

FINANCIAL PLANNING

Inited are proud to associate with Verdant Financial Plan www.verdantfp.co.uk



Nick Witcombe Host of Podcast

Dean Foster

Episode 7

Listen Now

Biggy Talks is a podcast that started during the pre-season to cover all things Biggleswade United. Join Ryan, Dean and Nick as they talk about the Men's first and Reserve teams the Women's reds and blues teams and everything else happening in Biggleswade United. We aim to produce regular episodes that cover the matches played and coming

Rvan Madden

up as well as interviews with everyone involved

Click to listen to Episode 7 You can also follow the podcast on Twitte @biggytalks

PLAY YOUR PART

EVERYONE AT YOUR CLUB HAS A ROLE IN KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE



PLAY SAFE

Together we'll help every child enjoy the beautiful game.

Find out more at TheFA.com/PlaySafe





Supported by











Biggleswade United is lending its full support to Play Safe – a national FA-led campaign to raise awareness of the importance of safeguarding in football.

Play Safe is being run in partnership with the NSPCC and has the full backing of the Premier League, EFL, Barclays FA Women's Super League and the FA Women's Championship. It's also supported and being run across every other level of the game.

The main element of Play Safe is a series of short films which emphasise the importance of clubs such as ours having safeguarding as an everyday reality. The films also explain to parents/carers and children themselves know what to do if they feel unsafe or worried, because nothing matters more than making sure football is safe for everyone, especially children and young people. You can see these films on our club website and we've also broadcast them on our social media channels.

"As a youth team coach, I will be working with my club to ensure we support the Play Safe messaging," says FA Chief Executive Mark Bullingham. "I am also pleased that the campaign has the support of the former footballers with lived experience of abuse in football, who are on our Survivor Support and Safeguarding Advisory Group. The Group has collectively said: "Learning from the past is crucial, so that we can prevent the horrific experiences that happened to us and so many others in football, from happening again.

"As a group of survivors, we fully support the ethos and important messages that Play Safe conveys – whether to club officials, parents/carers and or vitally, children and young people themselves. Equally important is that Play Safe is not a one-off campaign – it will be used at key points in the football calendar to remind everyone in football, that children's welfare and keeping them safe, should be at the heart of all that we do."

As the Survivor Group points out, you'll see Play Safe appearing at various points throughout the season to keep safeguarding front of mind in football. Together, we want to do everything we can so everyone – particularly children and young people – has a consistently positive experience of our great game.

Biggleswade United have appointed Tracey James as the club's Child Welfare Officer. Tracey's contact details are tracey james 58@btinternet.com or telephone 07714 661827.

WHO IS AT THE CLUB

SECRETARY AND FIXTURE SECRETARY - TRACEY JAMES TREASURER - BRENT WILKS

HEAD OF COMMS – PATRICIA GONZÁLEZ MUÑIZ HEAD OF MEDIA – ARITRA BOSE MEDIA OFFICER – ARYA YUYUTSU

HEAD OF YOUTH - DAN WATKINS

PHYSIOTHERAPY - OLLIE TOWNSEND

SPONSORSHIP RELATIONS MANAGER - KAY MANSHIP FUNDRAISING TEAM - KAY MANSHIP, WILLIAM GLASSWELL

KIT MANAGER - WILLIAM GLASSWELL CLUB WELFARE OFFICER - TRACEY JAMES

BOARD MEMBERS – GUILLEM BALAGUE, WILLIAM GLASSWELL, KAREN DIGWEED, PETULA HUNT, TRACEY JAMES, GIACOMO MALLAMACI, DAN WATKINS, JORDAN BARROW, PATRICIA GONZÁLEZ MUÑIZ, KAY MANSHIP

MEN'S FIRST TEAM JOINT MANAGERS – GAZ HUNT, JORDAN WRIGHT MEN'S FIRST TEAM ASSISTANTS – DEL DIGWEED, JOSH THOMAS, MARTIN RUSSELL

RESERVE TEAM COACHES - CAMERON OMAR, MARTIN RUSSELL, DARREN HUNT

WOMEN'S TECHNICAL SECRETARY – GIACOMO MALLAMACI WOMEN'S TEAM SUPERVISOR – DEAN FOSTER WOMEN'S CONFLICTS RESOLUTION OFFICER – SUE GRIFFIN WOMEN'S HEAD COACH – ASHLEY PEAD WOMEN'S COACHES – BRADLEY JONES, PEARSE HAMILTON, MATTHAIOS SIDIROPOULOS WOMEN'S GOALKEEPER COACH – AMY BUTLER

MEDIA TEAM – PETE LOCKYER, ARITRA BOSE, RYAN MADDEN, ELLE THORNE, PATRICIA GONZÁLEZ MUÑIZ, MICHAEL GRIMES, ARYA YUYUTSU, NICK WITCOMBE, JOSH RUSSELL, ALBERTO MORELL LÓPEZ, BARTOSZ ROMANEK

MATCH DAY ANNOUNCER – NICK WITCOMBE CLUB PHOTOGRAPHERS – TIA THORNE, COSMIN IFTODE, PATRICIA GONZÁLEZ MUÑIZ LIVE CAMERA AND GAME COMMENTATORS – RYAN MADDEN, NICK WITCOMBE

HOSPITALITY TEAM - KAREN DIGWEED, PETULA HUNT, TRACEY JAMES, HEATHER RENNIE, DEL DIGWEED, DARREN HUNT

GROUNDS AND FACILITIES TEAM - TRACEY JAMES, HEATHER RENNIE, STEVE GRENFELL, GEOFF HANCOCK, BOB MILES, DAVID CARELESS, PETER DEAN, NEIL MANSHIP

KEECH HOSPICE RELATIONS – LOU GROCOTT





SPONSOR A PLAYER FOR £109, FOR MORE INFO: BIGGLESWADEUNITED@GMAIL.COM



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GROUND

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RESERVE TEAM SPONS

RSFOR 2023 - 2024

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VETERAN TEAM SPONSOR

In aid of Kess Finish Registered Charity No. 1035089

OR CHOSEN CHARITY

LEAGUE TABLE

LEAGUE TABLE SSMFL 23-24 (TOP HALF)

- 1 BIGGLESWADE UNITED 2 MILTON KEYNES IRISH
- 2 MILTON KEYNES IRISH
- **3 FC ROMANIA**
- 4 LEVERSTOCK GREEN
- 5 COCKFOSTERS
- 6 HARPENDEN TOWN
- 7 ST PANTELEIMON
- 8 TRING ATHLETIC
- 9 REAL BEDFORD
- **10 DUNSTABLE TOWN**

recyclinglive



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MEN'S SENIOR TEAM NEXT MATCH



CIAL PLANNING



LAND PARTNERSHIPS

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OME GAM

WOMEN'S REDS

BIGGLESWADE UNITED WOMEN REDS

HARPENDEN TOWN WOMEN





03.09.2023 2 PM | SG18 0AA AXIS P ERWFL

WOMEN'S TEAMS WOMEN'S BLUES N IIRES TBA (FRIENDLY) TBA **3RD SEP** (A) GARSTON 2 PM WD23 2TR **10TH SEP [A]** LADIES FC 2 PM SG18 ØAA FLITWICK 17TH SEP (H) EAGLES BLUES 2 PM AL5 2EF HARPENDEN TOWN U23 24TH SEP (A) 2 PM SG18 ØAA 15TH OCT (H) WOBURN & WAVENDON LIONESSES AXIS 🦞 BHFL

BUFC RESERVES FIXTURES



CRAWLEY GREEN RESERVES (A)

F | V

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SAT 2 SEP • 14:30ko Crawley Green Rec • LU2 9AG

ELSTOW ABBEY (H)

SAT 7 SEP 14:30ko Verdant Stadium • SG18 0AA

SHEFFORD TOWN & CAMPTON RES. (H)

SAT 16 SEP • 14:30ko Verdant Stadium • SG18 0AA

MARSTON SHELTON ROVERS (H)

SAT 28 SEP • 19:30ko Verdant Stadium • SG18 0AA

QUEENS PARK CRESCENTS (A)

SAT 30 SEP 14:30ko Allen Park - MK40 4LY

NEXT MATCH









BIGGLESWADEUTD.COM MEDIA@BIGGLESWADEUTD.COM