



17TH | 3:00 PM | SG18 0AA
BIGGLESWADE UNITED
VS
ARDLEY UNITED

17TH | 2:30 PM | SG17 5JD
SHEFFORD TOWN & CAMPTON RES
VS
BUFC RESERVES

18TH | 2:00 PM | SG18 0AA
BUFC WOMEN RED
VS
HEADSTONE MANOR LADIES

18TH | 2:00 PM | AL4 0NP
COLNEY HEATH LADIES RESERVES
VS
BUFC WOMEN BLUE

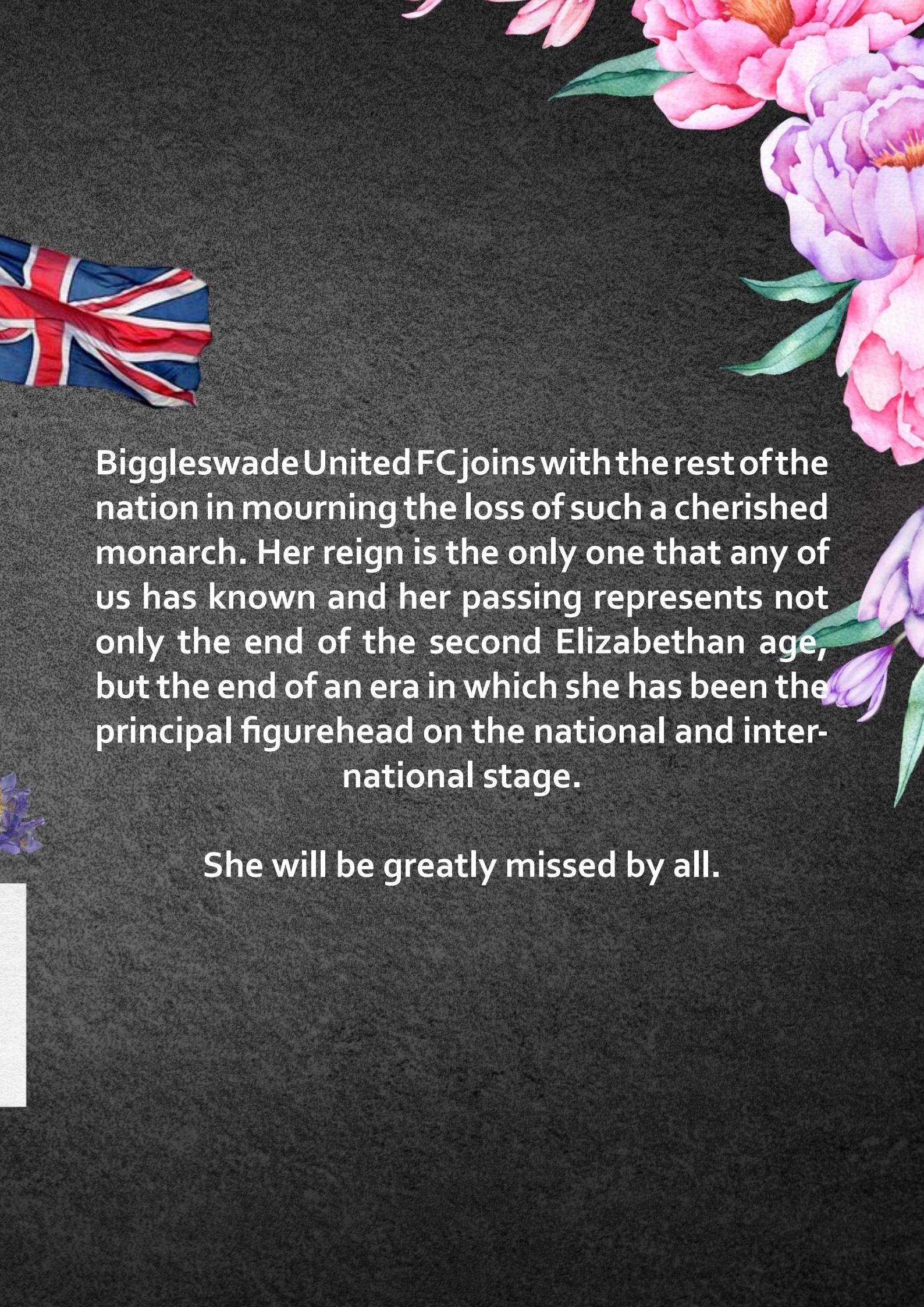
OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME

BIGGLESWADE UNITED



Forever in Our Heart
HM Queen Elizabeth II

April 21, 1926 - September 8, 2022



Biggleswade United FC joins with the rest of the nation in mourning the loss of such a cherished monarch. Her reign is the only one that any of us has known and her passing represents not only the end of the second Elizabethan age, but the end of an era in which she has been the principal figurehead on the national and international stage.

She will be greatly missed by all.

CHAIRMAN'S CORNER



I have always described our club as one big family and one that I am extremely proud to be part of. Our family is made up of many individuals, predominantly players and supporters, but an extremely valuable group of individuals of that family are our band of volunteers.

On Friday I spoke with our club secretary, Tracey James, who like so many of our volunteers has only ever known one sovereign, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Tracey was clearly saddened and shocked by the sudden death of Her

Majesty and like many of her fellow volunteers felt that she needed time to pause and reflect the passing of someone that had been part of her life right back to when she took the Brownie Promise at the age of 8 and then as a civil servant for 38 years.

Tracey described it as like losing her mother and grandmother all over again - a sentiment echoed by thousands since the Queen's passing - and the emotions that evokes were clearly evident when I spoke with her. It was clearly



going to be a very difficult weekend for her and so many members of our “family” with matches on Saturday and Sunday.

What many do not know is that as far as our volunteers are concerned a “weekend of football” starts on Friday morning with pitch preparation, cleaning the clubhouse and changing rooms, shopping, kit organisation and much, much more.

All that she and other volunteers wanted was for a period of quiet contemplation. We were left with a decision on whether the weekend games should go ahead.

At midday on Friday that decision was made for us by the Football Association. They decreed that all games, from the Premier League down to grassroots football should be cancelled throughout the weekend to enable all to pay their respects to Her Majesty the Queen who was the long-standing Patron of The Football Association.

For some this was an unpopular decision and I respect those opinions who felt that it would have been more fitting if clubs had the opportunity to pay tribute to Her Majesty over the weekend.

However, football is not just about the Premier League. Non League football is about community and family and we must be mindful that we care about the people that make up that family and on this occasion it was completely right that we understand the feelings that the Queen’s passing had on all of our family and “press the pause button” for just one weekend. Now that we have had that time to reflect we will be marking the passing of Her Majesty on Saturday and Sunday with a minutes silence at our men’s first team League game against Ardley United and our Women’s Reds team Vitality Women’s FA Cup tie against Headstone Manor. Both at the Keech Hospice Stadium.

Guillem Balagué

biggleswadeunited@gmail.com

STORY OF OUR CLUB



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 has 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 walkway 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 Balague as Biggleswade United's Director of Football. Following Mick and Mark's decision to step down at the end 2014 2015, Guillem was quick 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. After ten years of steady progress at Step 5 the club now face a challenging period that will require steadfastness and perseverance as we work to rebuild a squad that will once again be challenging for promotion.

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.



**INTERVIEWS | MATCH REPORT | COMM
STREAMING | PHOTOGRAPHY**

WRITE TO MEDIA@BIO



ENTATING | MATCHDAY PROGRAMME
| INTERVIEWS | SOCIAL MEDIA
GIGGLESWADEUTD.COM

TEAM SHEETS

BIGGLESWADE UNITED



YEMI ADELEYNI
KYE ANDREWS
CHARLIE BLACK
MARKEL COUSINS
CALLUM ELLIOTT
JOSEPH GAUGE
ADAM HARPUR (GK)
MICHAEL HUDSON (GK)
GARETH HUNT (C)
CAMERON HYDE
CONOR INSKIP
JAIDEN IRISH
RAHEEM JABBAR
JORDAN JARROLD
LEWIS JONES
MILO KEANE
OLIVER LESLIE (GK)
JEMALE MCKENZIE
CHARLIE MOSS
TAYLOR RHINEY
CADE STEPHENS-ABBAYE
JOSHUA STURNILO

HEAD COACH: CRISTIAN COLAS
COACH: DEL DIGWEED
GK COACH: DAN WATKINS
PHYSIO: BERNAT PUIG-VALLS

ARDLEY UNITED



DECLAN BENJAMIN
DARIUS BROWNE
MASON COURTNEY
LEWIS GABBIDON
BENJAMIN JAMES HOY
JORDY NGATHE
ANACLET ODHIAMBO
ELLIOTT OSBORNE-RICKETTS
CONAL ROGAN
JOSHUA TOOKE
BEN WILLOUGHBY
LEAM HOWARDS
SAM MCCONNELL
DREW WILSON

1ST TEAM MANAGER: JULES MCCALMON
ASSISTANT MANAGER/COACH: CARL REED, ELLIOTT OSBORNE-RICKETTS
GOALKEEPER COACH: GARY COURTNEY
PHYSIO: BOWIE PRICE

**THINK
FIRST!**

BEFORE YOU CURSE

MIND YOUR LANGUAGE



Respect



OUR OPPONENTS

Ardley United were formed in 1945 just after the end of the Second World War. In the early years, the club plied its trade in the Lord Jersey FA and played on a pitch which was situated close to the railway line on the Oxford Road. The 1950's and '60's were successful for the club as they won both league titles and cups; most notably the Oxfordshire Junior Shield on three occasions as well as many other trophies. The acquisition of the current Playing Field site in the mid-'60's enabled the club to move into the heart of the village, and a number of volunteers led by life-long supporter Doug Hodges built modest changing rooms.

Ardley continued to compete in the Jersey League throughout the 70's and early 80's without much success but this was to change in the mid-'80's with the arrival of Norman Stacey as chairman – a position that he graces to this day. In 1988 the club were promoted to the Oxfordshire Senior League and won the Division One title at the first attempt, following this up with the Premier Division title the following season. Accepting a place in the Hellenic League for the 1993/4 season, Ardley spent six seasons in the 'old' Division One winning it in both 1996/7 and 97/8 as well as winning the Division 1 Cup for a record four consecutive seasons before it was merged with the Premier Division Cup to become the Challenge Cup that we know today. The manager during these years was ex-Oxford United leading scorer Peter Foley and he was to be the first in a line of managers to keep Ardley at the forefront who include Paul Spittle, Paul Berry, Dan Still and Kevin Brock among their number.

Major change was to come in the early 2000's as, along with the Ardley Playing Field Committee, Ardley United oversaw the construction of dedicat-

ed facilities along with a separate village hall which enabled the club to be independent of community activities. The new clubhouse, which had been awarded the Non-League Paper's Hungerford Cup for most-improved facilities, allowed the club to be promoted to the Hellenic Premier Division and so began the club's most successful years to date.

Kevin Brock took the reins for seven seasons which saw Ardley win several cups including the Oxfordshire Senior Cup in 2013/14, a season during which they narrowly lost out on the Premier Division title by just two points. Following Brock's departure, Paul Davis took over as manager for nearly two seasons until the resignation of long-time chairman Norman Stacey in June 2017 for personal reasons. Ian Feaver took over the role of Chairman and appointed Craig Adey as First Team Manager. A decision to be voluntarily relegated to uhlsport Hellenic League Division One West gave everyone some breathing space to adjust to the new regime.

Craig brought with him a talented squad of players and they won the Division title gaining promotion back to the Premier Division at the first time of asking. The 2018/2019 season had its ups and downs but the team finished on a high winning the Hellenic League Floodlit Cup.

Lee Matthews was appointed manager for the 2020-21 season, after being joint manager with Daniel (Elvis) Knight after Craig departed during the 2019-20 season. The club went through a restructure in the back office, leading to Eddie Nix being appointed as Director of Football and the creation of the Ardley United Development team, managed by Carl Reed.



Need a New Kit for Next Season ?

Then why not get in touch or come & take a look around our showroom - We are the South Midlands largest single one-stop solution for all your Football Kit, Clubwear, Training Equipment & Trophies !!

Proud to be Preferential Partners to the Spartan South Midlands Football League



www.mdhteamwear.co.uk

tel: (01908) 611421

MDH Teamwear & Trophies
Unit 38 Carters Yard, Carters Lane, Kiln Farm,
Milton Keynes MK11 3HL
Open Monday-Saturday 9am-5.30pm



COACH CHAT

Cristian Colás - Men's Head Coach

First of all, on behalf of myself and everyone in the Biggleswade United FC family, I would like to show our deepest respect on the passing of HRM Elizabeth II.

This fact marks that we will compete again after 11 days since our last match, against Old Bradwell United FC in the Gladwish Challenge Trophy. We deservedly went through the next round after being very clinical on an offensive level, but the last 10 minutes of the game made us finish the game with a bad taste.

We have to be just as offensive again in our next games but, on the other hand, we have to be much more forceful in our own box and appreciate that the opponent doesn't always have to score.

If we reinforce this message, we will close September with good position in all competitions, which is our goal, in order to be able to face an October with many challenges ahead and that could mark the future of the season.



WHO IS AT THE CLUB

CHAIRMAN - GUILLEM BALAGUE

SECRETARY AND FIXTURE SECRETARY - TRACEY JAMES

TREASURER - BRENT WILKS

HEAD OF MEDIA - ARYA YUYUTSU

MEDIA OFFICER - ARITRA BOSE

HEAD OF YOUTH - DAN WATKINS

PHYSIOTHERAPY - BERNAT PUIG-VALLS

FUNDRAISING AND COMMERCIAL - 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

MEN'S FIRST TEAM HEAD COACH - CRISTIAN COLÁS

MEN'S FIRST TEAM ASSISTANTS - BERNAT PUIG-VALLS, DEL DIGWEED, DAN WATKINS

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

WOMEN'S TECHNICAL SECRETARY - GIACOMO MALLAMACI

WOMEN'S COACHES - LUKE MOLLOY, ASH PEAD, DEAN FOSTER, SIMON BROWN, BRAD JONES

MEDIA TEAM - PETE LOCKYER, ARITRA BOSE, RYAN MADDEN, ELLE THORNE, PATRICIA GONZÁLEZ MUÑIZ, MICHAEL GRIMES, ARYA YUYUTSU, NICK WITCOMBE, JOSH RUSSELL, TIA THORNE

MATCH DAY ANNOUNCER - NICK WITCOMBE

CLUB PHOTOGRAPHERS - TIA THORNE, COSMINIFTODE, PATRICIA GONZÁLEZ MUÑIZ, MATT BURLING

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

KEECH HOSPICE RELATIONS - LOU GROCOTT



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



NSPCC

Supported by



WE'RE BACKING PLAY SAFE

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.james58@btinternet.com or telephone 07714 661827.



TO HIRE THE CLUBHOUSE

HIRE
CLUBHOUSE



BE THE
CLUBHOUSE

WRITE TO KAREN AT
CLUBHOUSE@BIGGLESWADEUTD.COM

HELP BUILD OUR CLUB

SPONSOR A PLAYER OR A COACH





**FOR MORE INFO OR TO CONFIRM
SPONSORSHIP AND SEND LOGO:
BIGGLESWADEUNITED@GMAIL.COM**

**TO SEND YOUR SPONSORSHIP
BIGGLESWADE UNITED 1959
20 - 41 - 12 | 13179869**

£75/SEASON
**YOU WILL BE ON OUR WEB
PAGE, SOCIAL MEDIA AND
PROGRAM**



£250/SEASON
**ALL ABOVE + YOUR LOGO WILL
BE IN OUR SEASON TICKET**

£500/SEASON
**ALL OF THE ABOVE + PITCH
SIDE BOARD**

TABLE

SSMFL LEAGUE TABLE 22-23

		P	PTS
1	SHEFFORD TOWN & CAMPTON	4	12
2	TRING ATHLETIC	6	11
3	CRAWLEY GREEN	4	10
4	LEIGHTON TOWN	3	9
5	LEVERSTOCK GREEN	3	9
6	ST PANTELEIMON	5	8
7	BIGGLESWADE UNITED	5	7
8	HARPENDEN TOWN	3	6
9	STOTFOLD	4	5
10	DUNSTABLE TOWN	2	4

MEN'S SENIOR TEAM

UPCOMING FIXTURE

MATCHDAY

GAMEWEEK 6

BIGGLESWADE UTD VS ARDLEY UNITED



17
SEP

SG18 0AA | 3 PM

TABLE

ERWFL LEAGUE TABLE 22-23 DIV - 1 NORTH

		P	PTS
1	ST IVES TOWN	3	9
2	BIGGLESWADE UNITED RED	2	6
3	YAXLEY	2	4
4	HAVERHILL ROVERS	3	4
5	NEWMARKET TOWN	3	3
6	AFC DUNSTABLE	2	3
7	FAKENHAM TOWN	3	0
8	WOOTTON BLUE CROSS	2	0

WOMEN'S SENIOR REDS

UPCOMING FIXTURE



Vitality
WOMEN'S
FA CUP

BUFC RED

VS

**HEADSTONE
MANOR LADIES**

18th SEP | SG18 OAA | 2 PM



**BUFC
RED**



UPCOMING FIXTURE

MATCHDAY

GAMeweek 2



SHEFFORD TOWN AND
CAMPTON RESERVES

VS

BIGGLESWADE
UNITED RESERVES



17
SEP

SG17 5JD | 2.30 PM

BUFC RESERVES

WOMEN'S SENIOR BLUES

UPCOMING FIXTURE

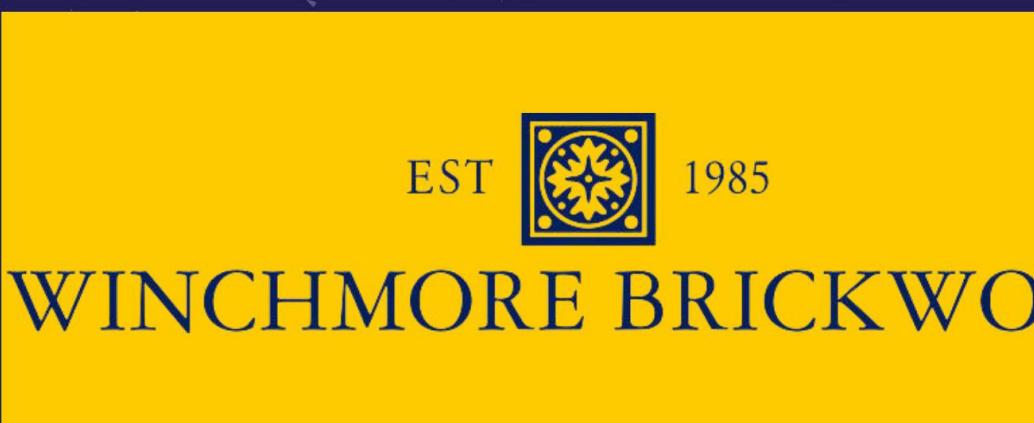
NEXT
MATCH

COLNEY HEATH
LADIES RES. V BUFC WOMEN
BLUE

18 SEP | 2 PM
AL4 0NP



OUR PARTNERS F



MEN'S SENIOR TEAM SPONS



RESERVE TEAM SPONS



GENERAL SPONS

FOR 2022 - 2023



ORK WOMEN'S SENIOR TEAM SPONSOR



FOR VETERAN TEAM SPONSOR

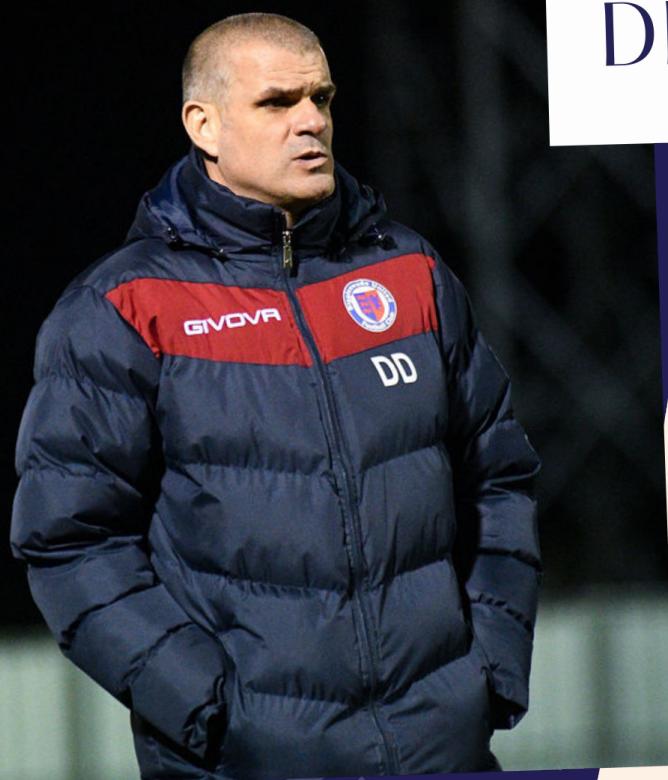


Registered Charity No. 1035089

FOR GROUND SPONSOR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

DEL DIGWEED



To the coaching legend ,
valued member of the BUFC
family and master of the
electronic substitute board
have a fantastic 50th birthday.
I hope you have a great day.

All the best!

-NICK

Del, happy birthday from a
chairman always in awe of
your commitment and good
humour... don't change!

-GUILLEM

After three seasons together, the
only thing I haven't seen him
doing for the Club is to complain.
For your support, your smiles &
for your care of everything
and everyone. Thanks a lot man.

HAPPY 50th birthday!

-CRISTIAN



BIGGLESWADEUTD.COM
MEDIA@BIGGLESWADEUTD.COM