



WELCOME TO THE VERDANT STADIUM



MEN'S FIRST TEAM VS POTTON UNITED – FRI 3:00PM (H)

PHOTO CREDIT: RICHARD SOUTHAN



OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME BIGGLESWADE UNITED FC





CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN

When you are a journalist who travels a lot, you find yourself talking with some very wise people.

Once you've filed your report, done your analysis, had a meal and heard everything on and off the record, you find yourself alone again — travelling, watching training, or taking in a game. Although I have a team working with me most of the time, you are mostly on your own.

So what was it that attracted me to Biggleswade United, and how has it changed me?

At first, I thought it would be another string to my bow. I had also just completed my UEFA B coaching badge and was keen to put some of my newly acquired skills into practice.

I knew what style I wanted at the club, and I knew that to achieve it I was going to have to bring on board those people already there who were on my wavelength.

Involvement with the club gave me both a social network and a project — and for that you need plenty of other people, if you can convince them to come with you. Not alone anymore.

It means my life is richer. I have developed new friendships and learn every day about the importance of working together as a family. I fell in love with the people involved. First and foremost, those at the club were good people — and deeply committed. Those are the only two basic requirements we ask of anyone who becomes involved with us. If they already have the skills we need, so much the better; if they need to learn, we can be patient and teach them.

All of that attracted me to the role. What I hadn't anticipated — after years of extensive media coverage across all its forms — was that as I walked down the street, people would now recognise me through my connection to the club.

We became a magnet: for some, a place to fall in love with football again; for others, a springboard for their careers. We have had Quique de Lucas and Nacho Novo in the men's first team, and Ansu Fati's brother Brahim joined us to kickstart his career and learn the language.

We have been featured on the BBC, ITV and 5 Live, and I never miss an opportunity to get our name out there. More recently, we were the focus of a Premier League production. Wherever I went, the shirt came with me — from Maradona to Messi, from Pep to Xabi Alonso. In fact, just about anyone who is anyone in football over the past decade features on our Wall of Fame at the clubhouse, holding aloft the club shirt. Raúl, Puyol, Iniesta, Xavi, Busquets, Pochettino, Klopp — they're most probably there. I explain who we are, and no one ever says no.

To give a club its identity, you have to look back at where it came from. In the past we had a very strong women's section — at one point among the strongest in the country — and we are now determined to restore it to those glory days.

For me, success is not measured by the acquisition of trophies — as welcome as that is — but by seeing youngsters come through the junior ranks and make it all the way to the first team. It is to facilitate exactly that journey that we are continually working to build our youth section.

We now have a clear identity and fans who know what we stand for: a club enjoyed by players, managers and supporters alike, always on the understanding that the club comes first. No one is bigger than that.

Congratulations, by the way, to our Under-18s on their recent Cup triumph. Enjoy being part of the growing success here — and always remember that, as welcome as those achievements are, no single part of the club is bigger than the club itself. We are all part of One Club.

We have had teams in the past, in both the youth and senior sections, who thought they were bigger than the club — who mistakenly believed they deserved a level of attention we simply could not give them. It is a two-way street. By all means hold those who make decisions at the club to account. But parents, coaches and players all have to be part of the club. Be seen in the clubhouse. Volunteer when needed. Help build the identity of what we are. We don't always get it right, but everyone needs to understand their part in that.

To paraphrase Kennedy: "Ask not what your club can do for you — ask what you can do for your club."

Guillem Balagué
chairman@biggleswadeunited.co.uk

TEAMSHEETS

**BIGGLESWADE
UNITED FC**



**JOSH MOLLISON
AXEL AMPADU
KADE BAGGE
VINNIE BAKER
SCOTT BRIDGES
ROBBIE BUCHANAN
KIT BROWN
NEWMAN CARNEY
TOM COOKSLEY
SAM EZENWAKA
JAIDEN IRISH ©
HENRY JONES
KINGSLEY JOY-BATES
FREDDIE LARAMAN
RYAN LEWIS
JEREMIAH LUWERO
WILLIAM MCNEILL
SCOTT METCALFE
KANE O'NEIL
LIAM SMYTH**

**MANAGER: KANE DOUGHERTY
ASSISTANT: PAUL DONNELLY
COACH: RUBEN WARD-LINDSAY
GK COACH: DEL DIGWEED
PHYSIO: KIRSTY BATEMAN – FOLEY
KIT MANAGER: TRACEY JAMES**

**POTTON
UNITED**



**ALEX DESMOND
DAN WAPPETT
MATT GILBERT ©
JOSH BROWN
BEN HOLMES
CAMERON WATSON
TAYLOR KEELY
HARVEY VEGH
CHARLIE CLARK
EDDIE CONNOLLY
REECE CROWTER
FREDDIE MORIARTY
PETER MURPHY
NIKOLAY RUSEV
FINLEY LYNCH
LUCAS TITCHMARSH
RYAN LAMOND
ELLIOT POWELL
MYLES JACKSON
SONNY GARDNER**

**MANAGER: JACK GALATIS
COACH: FINN SHANLEY
PHYSIO: CRAIG GANT**

april

AT THE VERDANT!



FRI 3rd
7:45 PM

POTTON UNITED



WED 8th
7:45 PM

SHEFFORD T&C RESERVES



SAT 11th
2:30 PM

BIGGLESWADE FC RESERVES



SUN 12th
2:00 PM

CAMBRIDGE CITY WOMEN



TUE 14th
7:45 PM

COCKFOSTERS



SAT 18th
2:30 PM

QUEENS PARK CRESCENTS

up  the
COMMUNITY



BIGGLESWADE UNITED



VERDANT



MATCHDAY GALLERIES



Visit our website to see all of our matchday galleries, captured by club photographer Richard Southan.



OUR OPPONENTS

1943—Club formed during wartime.

1945—When peace broke out the Club joined the South Midlands League. The first matches were played at The Recreation Ground in Sandy Road.

1947—A group of local volunteers prepared the present ground at The Hollow, renting the ground from the Land Settlement Association. Won Bedfordshire Senior Cup.

1948—Entered the FA Cup and in First Qualifying Round beat Stewartby Works 6-1 away, which is still our highest score in this competition. Reached second Qualifying Round before losing 3-1 at Hitchin Town in a replay. Won Bedfordshire Senior Cup.

1952—Were drawn away to Bedford Town in the First Qualifying Round of the FA Cup. Supporters organized a train from Potton to Bedford but saw Potton lose 0-6.

1955—Made application to join London-based Parthenon League, but were rejected.

1956—After a season in limbo the Club joined the Central Alliance League Division One (South).

1961—Joined the United Counties League.

1963—Sunday football side Potton Casuals formed and played their home matches at The Hollow.

1964—Won Bedfordshire Senior Cup beating Shillington 5-3.

1969—Lost 10-0 away to Cambridge United in the FA Cup (which is still our heaviest defeat in this competition).

1973—Our landlords, The Land Settlement Association wanted to sell the ground and our President, Peter Hutchinson, bought the ground and gave the club a 99 year lease at a peppercorn rent. Won League Knock Out Cup beating Bedford Eagles in the final.

1974—Finished bottom of Premier Division.

1976—Won Bedfordshire Senior Cup.

1977—Floodlights installed.

1978—Agreement was reached with Potton Town Cricket Club that they could use the facilities at The Hollow. Won Bedfordshire Senior Cup for fifth time.

1984—Old dressing rooms (including communal bath) and clubroom was knocked down and replaced by the current clubhouse and dressing room.

Potton Sports & Social Club formed, which comprised Potton United FC, Potton Town CC and Potton Timber Ltd Sports Club.

1987—Won first League title when they were unbeaten on their travels.

1988—New wooden stand built. Finished fourth in League.

1989—Won League title for second time and Ray Seekings scored a record 56 goals. Potton Tennis Club move to The Hollow with 2 tennis courts.

1990—Finished 14th in Premier Division. Reached the Fifth Round of the FA Vase before losing 3-1 away to Billericay in front of a crowd of 1000 plus. Woodentops Playgroup started using the clubhouse in January 1990.

1991—Finished fourth in League. Long serving Manager Terry King leaves the club and was replaced by Andy Lloyd and won Hunts Premier and Hinchingbrooke Cups. The Tennis Club enlarged their facilities and have 4 tennis courts incorporating two Multi Use Games Area (MUGA).

1994—Andy Lloyd resigned and was replaced by the charismatic Kenny Davidson (who is now living in Barbados).

1995—Won Bedfordshire Premier Cup. 16th in League.

1997—Participated in 6 Cup Finals winning four of them. Finished fourth in Premier Division.

1998—Finished 14th in League. Kenny Davidson left the club and was replaced by Martin Humberstone, then Reserve Team Manager.

2001—Relegated to Division One after third consecutive season in a relegation place.

2002—Finished 15th in Division One before former Club Captain and fans favourite Dick Newman was appointed Manager.

2003—Wooden stand destroyed by fire. To mark the Club's 60th Anniversary the Club played Rushden & Diamonds X1 that consisted mainly of youth players in front of a crowd of 450. Finished sixth in Division One.

2004—A storming campaign saw the Royals winning the Division One title with 80 points and scoring at about 3 goals per game. Match between a Potton United X1 (comprising ex players) and an Arsenal Ex Professional & Celebrity X1 was played when the current stand was officially opened and named The Derek Inskip Stand. Recorded highest win in FA Vase (4-1) when we beat Edgware Town away in Round 2.

2005— Early in the year saw the death of two stalwarts of the club. Derek Inskip passed away in January having completed 50 years as Secretary And Terry King passed away in February—he was associated with the club for 40 years as player and then Manager. Reached Round Four of FA Vase before losing 2-1 at Bury Town. Finished runners-up to Cogenhoe United. A league match at Potton against Cogenhoe had to be abandoned due to floodlight failure and the rearranged match was the last of the season and Cogenhoe held on to a draw to secure the title by one point in front of a crowd over 300.

Won League Knock Out Cup beating Woodford United in the final. Joint Managers Dick Newman and Roy Bloxham won 3 Manager of the Month awards as well as Manager of the Season award. Dick Newman resigned and was replaced by Ian Donnelly.

2006—Finished runners-up again, this time to Woodford United on goal difference. Roy Bloxham replaced Ian Donnelly as Manager and also bringing back Dick Newman as Assistant.

2007—Finished fourth in League and lost on penalties in Final of League Knock Out Cup to Boston Town. Roy Bloxham resigned as Manager and was replaced by Dean Chapman who had to build a new team as all of the first team had left to join other local clubs. We reached the Fourth Round of the FA Vase before losing 2-1 to eventual finalists AFC Totton. Finished fourth in league.

2008—After finishing our league programme early in April we had a nervous wait for other clubs to finish their programme of matches and escaped relegation by one point. Dean Chapman resigned as Manager and was replaced by Dean Shipp. Another rebuilding of the squad with the emphasis on youth and local players. Constitution of Potton Sports & Social Club revised to now incorporate as members—Potton United FC, Potton Town CC, Potton Tennis Club and Woodentops Playgroup.

2009—Finished second from bottom in the Premier Division, and under instructions from the FA to the UCL the club were relegated to the Division One as the ground did not come up to the required standards.

2010-11—In September Tom Galvin decided he wanted to concentrate on playing and so Darren Staniforth and Glen Clark were appointed joint Managers. Finished near bottom of Division One.

2011-12—Darren and Glen still in charge, signing a few new players. Nicky Stocks replaced Glen Clark during the year. Reserves reformed under the management of Duncan Field and Kieran Dempsey and they will compete in Division Two of the Bedfordshire County League.

2012-13—In lower level of both UCL and Bedfordshire County Leagues. Reached final of Beds FA Senior Trophy but lost 1-0 to Bedford FC. In March 2013 ground improvements finished that included fencing round the pitch, hard standing now all the way round the pitch and pay hut.

2013-14—Planning permission granted for covered standing for 50 spectators. Applied for funding for new floodlights.

First Team finished 10th in league and Reserves in lower half of their league.

2014-15—Application for grant for new floodlights has been granted and new floodlights being installed. Small Spectator Stand being installed. Reserves enter UCL Reserve Division under management of Nicky Stocks and a Potton United Under 18 has been entered in the Royston Crow League and will play their home matches at The Hollow on Sundays. The 1st team finished in 3rd place in Div 1, just missing out on promotion and got to the UCL knock-out cup final, losing 3-0 to AFC Rushden & Diamonds.

2016-17 – The club enter a reserve side back in the UCL under the management of Matt Gedney, Steve Maddix and Brad Smith and they make their way to the final of the Beds Intermediate Cup, losing on penalties to AFC Dunstable U21s. Laurence Revell takes over the role of 1st team Manager in October 2016 with Darren Staniforth stepping up to Football General Manager to oversee all teams within the club. The 1st team finish in 6th position in Division One which earns them a place in the FA Cup for the 2017-18 season.

2017-18 – The club runs an under 18 team for only the second time in the clubs history, which was entered in the Northants Senior Youth League. Laurence resigns as manager in December 2016 and former Potton striker Steve Kuhne takes over the role assisted by Lee Pyke. The 1st team go on a great run in February/March which sees them finish as runners up and promoted back to Step 5 of the football pyramid. They also feature in the final of the North Beds Charity Cup, beating Bedford FC 2-0. The reserves management resign in January and are replaced by senior players James Jordan and Joe Wills.

2018-19 – The FA laterally moved the 1st team to the Spartan South Midlands League but the reserves remain in the UCL. The 1st team finished a creditable 7th place in the league and made the final of the league challenge trophy. Steve Kuhne resigns at the end of the season and Laurence Revell returns to the club as manager.

2019-20 – Jimmy Martin joins management team as coach then takes over when Revell resigns in February. Reached final of Bedfordshire Senior Cup but the season was abandoned in March due to global pandemic Coronavirus.

2020-21 – another season abandoned due to Coronavirus. In May the club were advised they would be laterally moved back to the UCL. An unsuccessful appeal means we will be heading north for all our league fixtures.

2021-22 – after a difficult start finished in 10th place in UCL Premier. Runners up in Hinchingsbrooke Cup, losing to Harborough Town in final. Request to be laterally moved back to SML for 22-23 granted by FA.

2022-23 – back in the SML and the team finished in mid table. At the end of the season the club parted company with Jimmy Martin.

2023-24 – Gary Jackson was appointed as manager at the start of the season and took the team to 9th place in the SMP Premier.



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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 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 Premier Cup, North Beds Charity Cup, Hinchingsbrooke 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 Dev-ane 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 curtailment 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. Sadly though their tenure lasted just the one season and in May 2024 the club moved on with the appointment of Kane Dougherty who has enjoyed success at Shefford Town and Campton. Kane's coaching team for the 2025 / 2026 season will comprise of Paul Donnelly, Ruben Ward-Lindsay James Taylor, Del Digweed, and Martin Russell.

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2025/26



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WHO IS WHO AT THE CLUB

Chairman - Guillem Balagué

Secretary and Fixture Secretary - Tracey James

Treasurer - Brent Wilks

Sponsorship managers – Guillem Balagué, Dave Poole, Jimmy Monger

Head of Media - Ryan Madden

Head of Youth – Kayleigh and Josh Thomas

Kit manager - William Glasswell

Club Welfare Officer - Tracey James

Executive Board – Amy Butler, Dave Poole, Kayleigh Thomas, Martin Boniface, Tracey James, Guillem Balagué

Advisory Board - Guillem Balague, William Glasswell, Karen Digweed, Petula Hunt, Tracey James, Jimmy Monger, Josh Thomas, Kayleigh Thomas, Ruth Fox, Jordan Barrow, Ryan Madden, Darren Wells, Patri González, Dave Poole

Men's Technical Secretary - Dogan Ffrench

Men's first team Head Coach – Kane Dougherty

Men's First Team Assistants – Paul Donnelly, Ruben Ward-Lindsay, Del Digweed, Martin Russell, Freddie Nicholson

Sports Therapist – Kirsty Foley

Reserve Team Coaches – Cameron Omar, Martin Russell, Darren Hunt

Women's Head Coach – Amy Butler

Women's Coaches – Peter Ward, Samaira Khan, Craig Hulbert, Grace Leslie

Women's head of media – Lucy Buck

Community Football – Darren Wells, Martin Boniface, Ruth Fox

Media Team - Pete Lockyer, Aritra Bose, Ryan Madden, Elle Thorne, Patricia González Muñiz, Michael Grimes, Arya Yuyutsu, Nick Witcombe, Josh Russell, Annabelle Dannasha Silitonga, Freya Wren, Pablo Fuentes Rodríguez, Lucy Buck

Graphics – Martin Hollands

Match Day Announcer – Nick Witcombe

Club Photographers – Alex Amorós, Tia Thorne, Patricia González Muñiz, Richard Southan

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, Dave Poole

Maintenance - Karen Digweed, Petula Hunt, Del Digweed, Darren Hunt

Merchandising – Harriet Curzon, Jimmy Monger

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WE ARE 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.



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LEAGUE HISTORY

The League is relatively young compared to other's being formed in 1922 as the Bedfordshire County League. With new clubs keen to join from outside the County it was decided in 1929 to change the name to the South Midlands League. The League continued to consolidate and strengthen over the ensuing 70 years or so providing quality football for many teams over a large area of the South Midlands. In 1997 it became apparent that the London Spartan League, which was very much to the South of the League's geographical footprint, was struggling administratively and, with the full support of the Football Association, the decision was taken to merge the two competitions with the new League being known as the Spartan South Midlands League. The League now covers a wide area from North London in the South to Milton Keynes in the North and from Ware in the East to Aylesbury in the West.

The League is part of the FA's National League System (NLS) and comprises of three Divisions; Premier at Step 5 of the NLS, Division One at Step 6 and Division Two at Step 7.

The League has a proud record of promoting clubs to Step 4 of the NLS and has also provided 4 FA Vase Finalists including two winners in Arlesey Town and Hoddesdon Town FC.





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