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THE CITIZEN

Official Matchday Programme
Saturday 30th September 2023



Pitching In Southern League Division One Central



Welwyn Garden City v Bedford Town



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Welcome to Welwyn Garden City FC

Home of the Citizens

Good afternoon and a very warm welcome to The Pexhurst Stadium for our Pitching In Southern League Division One Central game against Bedford Town . We also extend our welcome to today's referee James Cliffe and his two assistants Christopher Severino and Oliver Hollyoak.

This is the last of three home games we have had on the spin and we come into today's game off of the back of a 2-1 defeat to AFC Dunstable on Tuesday night where we didn't start well but showed a massive improvement in the second half.

You can read the match report for this game later on in the programme.

Also on Tuesday night we had a welcome visitor in the form of Cyrus Babaie, last year's Players' Player award winner who has re-signed for us from Step 3 side Potters Bar. Welcome back Cyrus!

So, back to today's game and it looks likely it will be perfect conditions for football. The pitch looks in fantastic condition too considering there are three teams currently playing on it (First Team, AFC Welwyn and WGC Academy U18's) so credit to groundsman Richard James .

Today's opponents Bedford Town have had a perfect start to their Southern League campaign so far this season with five wins out of five so we are under no illusions that we are up for a tough game today.

However, the Welwyn Garden City lads will be encouraged by Saturday's point against a good Cirencester Town side and a good second half display on Tuesday so hopefully we can kick on from that and get a result today.

Enjoy the game.

Welwyn Garden City Football Club is a Members Club. All positions below are elected annually by members of the club at the AGM which is held in August of each year as per club rules.

CLUB OFFICERS:

Chairman: David Coates, Vice-Chair: Hywel Rhys-Williams, Club Secretary: Gavin Meaden, Treasurer: Leigh Corbit; Membership Secretary: Maureen Hay, Football Secretary: Phil Ravitz

Welwyn Garden City FC FA League Rule 2.13 Ownership:

In accordance with The Football Association Rule 2.13. Publication of Ownership in relation to Step 1 to Step 6 clubs within the football pyramid, we hereby confirm that the Legal Status of Welwyn Garden City Football Club, takes the form of an Unincorporated Association. It has a constitution which sets out the rules that govern its relationship and membership, and elects a Management Committee to run the organisation on behalf of its Private Members.

*That committee is currently: Chairman: David Coates, Club Secretary: Gavin Meaden
Members: Leigh Corbit (Club Treasurer), Maureen Hay (Membership Secretary), Phil Ravitz (Football Secretary), Vice-Chair Hywel Rhys-Williams*



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Match Report



WGC 1-2 AFC Dunstable



WELWYN GC were unable to capitalise on their improved showing in taking a point off high riding Cirencester three days before with just 10 men, by slipping to their third home defeat in four games this season.

WGC dominated the second-half of this clash, attacking relentlessly and applying sustained pressure, but failed to trouble AFC's defence sufficiently, only reducing a 2-0 interval deficit nine minutes from time, when substitute Henry Jones scrambled in a consolation.

They did hit the visitors' woodwork moments later, when skipper James Mulley lofted in high, up and under effort that landed on the Dunstable crossbar.

To add to the Citizens' woes they also had manager Marc Weatherstone sent from the touchline by referee Mayhew for remarks made about the build-up to the opening AFC goal and for "not showing due respect to a match official".

WGC have also finished three of their six league games this season with 10 men, having had Josh Steele, Zac Brown and Yasin Boodhoo all sent off.

The Clarets were thankful to Boodhoo for making a fine goalline clearance within four minutes of the start, to foil Dunstable's dangerous John Shamalo, after new WGC defender Manny Olagunju had a clearance charged down.

Then AFC central defender Dan Naylor blazed a powerful effort just over, as the Beds side made a strong start.

That was capped in 12 minutes with an opening goal. WGC were angered by what appeared to be a foul on Brad Wadkins on the far touchline.

Mr Mayhew allowed play to go on to the home bench's anger. Shamalo collected, waltzed through the home defence and crashed a fine finish past Saturday's hero Donnabhan Green for a 1-0 lead.

Manager Weatherstone continued his protests before the restart and was sent from the field of play.

Worse was to follow for WGC. They conceded a disputed foul around 30 yards out and Dunstable full-back Enrico Greco stepped up and made them pay with a tremendous, unstoppable effort past Green for a 2-0 lead, with 23 minutes gone.

The rest of the half was a struggle for the Pexhurst Stadium team. AFC played some sharp, slick football keeping the Citizens' defence at full strength.

It took a couple of sharp saves from keeper Green to prevent further damage and to that point, WGC's only attempts on goal was a weak finish from new midfielder Ruben Marquez and two headers from Olagunju and Wadkins, that flew well over the bar,

AFC began the second-half in similar form and Green made a fine double save to keep out Kyle Brooks' early effort, but that was to prove the last serious effort on goal from the visitors.

The Citizens made a double change on the hour, replacing the ineffective Marquez and Ethan Kessel with Jones and new wide player David Martins and proceeded to take the game over.

WGC attacked continually from that point and on four occasions, the ball flashed across the AFC goalmouth with no one on hand to apply a finishing touch.

Eventually, with nine minutes left, Dernel Wynter tested Dunstable keeper Tom Finch with a sharp strike that the keeper turned away.

Bailey Stevenson retrieved it and whipped it across goal and this time, Henry Jones turned it in from short range.

Mulley then hit the crossbar before being replaced by James Kaloczi for the final minutes.

WGC pressed and pressed, but to no avail and three more points slipped away, to leave them far too close to the foot of the table for comfort after six games.

WGC: Green, Brown, Boodhoo, Olagunju, Kirwan, Mulley (Kaloczi 84), Marquez (Martins 60), Kessel (Jones 60), Stevenson, Wadkins, Wynter.

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Club History

1921 First Welwyn Garden City formed. Matches played on local playing field.

1922 Joined Mid-Hertfordshire League. Permanent home established at Parkway ground. First competitive match played, home to Markyate, 26th August 1922.

1926 Joined Bedfordshire & District League. Entered the FA Amateur Cup for the first time.

1927 Reached the final of the Perry Cup, losing 6-1 to Ware at Hertingfordbury Park. Joined Spartan League. Entered the FA Challenge Cup for the first time.

1934 Amalgamated with Shredded Wheat FC, although both clubs maintained their separate identities. Commenced playing at the Shredded Wheat ground, adjacent to the Shredded Wheat works in Broadwater Road, Welwyn Garden City.

1935 Resigned from the Spartan League at the end of the season; use of the facilities at Shredded Wheat had been withdrawn and as no suitable alternative could be found, at the club AGM held 24th July 1935 it was agreed to wind up the club.

1937 At a meeting held on the 20th May 1937, after they were offered the facilities of Shredded Wheat FC, it was agreed to set up a new Welwyn Garden City FC.

1937 Joined Spartan League. Played once again at the Broadwater Road ground of the former Shredded Wheat FC.

1938 Arrangement with Shredded Wheat ended after one season. Groundshared with Murphy Radio FC for one season at Handside Playing Fields.

1939 Permanent home found at Springfields where we remained for 29 years.

1939/1940 Spartan League suspended after one game. Joined the Hertfordshire & Bedfordshire Combination league for the remainder of the season. No competitive matches recorded for 1941, 1942 or 1943.

1944 The "recently revived" team joined the Mid-Hertfordshire League

1945 Joined Spartan League

1951 Joined London League

1955 Joined Spartan League

1959 Joined Hertfordshire County League

1970 Hertfordshire FA withdraws senior status. Joined Greater London League (Division 2)

1971 Joined Metropolitan London League (which had been formed that year following the merger of the Greater London and Metropolitan leagues), Reserve Division 1.

1973 Merged with Welwyn Garden United to form Welwyn Garden FC and took United's place in the South Midlands League. Senior status regained as a result.

1974 Welwyn Garden FC won the South Midlands League Championship. Welwyn Garden United re-established as a separate club.

1982 Name changed to Welwyn Garden City Football and Social Club.

1997 Joined Spartan South Midlands League.

2018 Won the Spartan South Midlands League Championship. Joined Southern League, Central Division 1. Entered the FA Challenge Trophy for the first time.



League Table

		Overall						Home					Away					GD	PTS
		P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A		
1	Bedford Town	5	5	0	0	17	3	4	0	0	16	3	1	0	0	1	0	+14	15
2	Kings Langley	6	3	3	0	17	12	1	2	0	5	3	2	1	0	12	9	+5	12
3	AFC Dunstable	6	4	0	2	15	13	1	0	2	9	10	3	0	0	6	3	+2	12
4	Leighton Town	6	3	2	1	8	5	0	2	1	1	2	3	0	0	7	3	+3	11
5	Cirencester Town	7	2	4	1	12	6	2	1	0	9	2	0	3	1	3	4	+6	10
6	Waltham Abbey	5	3	1	1	11	6	1	0	1	5	5	2	1	0	6	1	+5	10
7	Hertford Town	6	3	1	2	11	10	1	1	2	6	7	2	0	0	5	3	+1	10
8	North Leigh	5	3	0	2	14	11	1	0	2	7	8	2	0	0	7	3	+3	9
9	Biggleswade	5	2	1	2	12	8	1	0	1	5	3	1	1	1	7	5	+4	7
10	Biggleswade Town	4	2	1	1	10	6	0	0	1	2	3	2	1	0	8	3	+4	7
11	Stotfold	6	2	1	3	9	12	2	0	2	7	8	0	1	1	2	4	-3	7
12	Ware	5	2	1	2	12	16	1	1	1	9	9	1	0	1	3	7	-4	7
13	Thame United	6	1	3	2	10	13	1	1	1	4	4	0	2	1	6	9	-3	6
14	Kidlington	6	1	3	2	6	11	0	1	1	2	4	1	2	1	4	7	-5	6
15	Barton Rovers	4	1	2	1	8	9	0	1	0	2	2	1	1	1	6	7	-1	5
16	Welwyn Garden City	6	1	1	4	9	16	0	1	3	5	12	1	0	1	4	4	-7	4
17	Aylesbury United	5	1	0	4	9	14	0	0	2	3	6	1	0	2	6	8	-5	3
18	Kempston Rovers	6	0	2	4	4	16	0	2	1	2	5	0	0	3	2	11	-12	2
19	Hadley	5	0	0	5	3	10	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	3	3	8	-7	0

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Pitching In Southern League Div One Central



Welwyn Garden City FC

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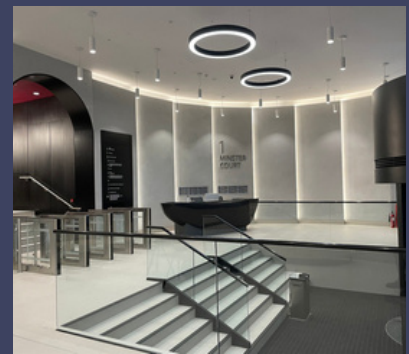


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Fixtures & Results

DATE	TIME	OPPONENT	COMPETITION	VENUE	SCORE
12th August	3:00 PM	Biggleswade FC	League	H	Lost 5-2
15th August	7:45 PM	Ware FC	League	A	Lost 4-2
19th August	3:00 PM	Romford	FA Cup	A	Won 3-1
26th August	3:00 PM	Kidlington	League	A	Won 2-0
28th August	3:00 PM	Waltham Abbey	League	H	Lost 4-1
2nd September	3:00 PM	Hitchin Town	FA Cup	A	Lost 2-1
9th September	3:00 PM	Basildon	FA Trophy	H	Lost 5-3
23rd September	3:00 PM	Cirencester Town	League	H	Drew 1-1
26th September	7:45 PM	AFC Dunstable	League	H	Lost 2-1
30th September	3:00 PM	Bedford Town	League	H	
7th October	3:00 PM	Thame United	League	A	
14th October	3:00 PM	Hertford Town	League	H	
28th October	3:00 PM	North Leigh	League	A	
4th November	3:00 PM	Kempston Rovers	League	H	
11th November	3:00 PM	Leighton Town	League	A	
18th November	3:00 PM	Barton Rovers	League	H	
25th November	3:00 PM	Stotfold	League	H	
2nd December	3:00 PM	Kings Langley	League	A	
16th December	3:00 PM	Aylesbury United	League	A	
23rd December	3:00 PM	Ware FC	League	H	
26th December	3:00 PM	Waltham Abbey	League	A	
1st January	3:00 PM	Hadley FC	League	H	
6th January	3:00 PM	Biggleswade FC	League	A	
13th January	3:00 PM	Thame United	League	H	
20th January	3:00 PM	Bedford Town	League	A	
27th January	3:00 PM	North Leigh	League	H	
3rd February	3:00 PM	Kempston Rovers	League	A	
10th February	3:00 PM	Leighton Town	League	H	
17th February	3:00 PM	Barton Rovers	League	A	
2nd March	3:00 PM	Hertford Town	League	A	
16th March	3:00 PM	Kidlington	League	H	
23rd March	3:00 PM	AFC Dunstable	League	A	
30th March	3:00 PM	Biggleswade Town	League	H	
1st April	3:00 PM	Hadley FC	League	A	
6th April	3:00 PM	Kings Langley	League	H	
13th April	3:00 PM	Stotfold	League	A	
20th April	3:00 PM	Aylesbury United	League	H	
27th April	3:00 PM	Cirencester Town	League	A	



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Today's Visitors

Bedford Town Football Club was formed in 1908 and has had a mixed history, that has seen it reach the higher levels of non-league football, with some notable cup runs on the way.

The Eagles started life playing in the United Counties League, and its predecessors the Northampton League and Northampton Alliance. In 1945 they moved to the Southern League but had little success until 1951 when player/manager Ronnie Rooke joined the club. Having a well-known former England and topflight footballer, inspired the local population to back the club, which paid off with some notable scalps in the FA Cup in the mid 50's when Bedford saw national fame as giant killers. Notable victories included Watford 3-2, Norwich 2-4, Newcastle 1-2, Exeter 1-2, Brighton 2-1 and Oxford 1-0, but maybe the 2-2 draw at Highbury against Arsenal in front of 55,000 fans was their biggest achievement.

Rooke's management reign came to an end and the 60's and 70's saw a string of managers including Barry Fry in 1977 who was followed by Trevor Gould. The last match for the Eagles at its home in Queens Park was in 1982, when the grounds leaseholders reserved their right to terminate their contract. After 74 years, Bedford's football team was no more.

Bedford Town supporters have always been a determined bunch, and on 5th May 1989 some of them met with the aim of starting a campaign to reform the club. That campaign was so successful that they soon got council permission to play on a public pitch in Queens Park, finishing fourth in the first reformed season in the South Midlands League. Runaway success in the 1992/3 season under Terry King and Tony Sullivan saw them needing their own ground to progress.

The council decided that the most appropriate location for the club was at a former tree nursery at Meadow Lane in Cardington. With financial support from the council and hard work by supporters the ground was ready for its first match Infront of a bumper crowd of 3,000 at the New Eyrie when Peterborough United came to town.

The Eagles in their new home started life in the SML Premier Division and remained top all season, meaning more work at the ground was needed. Two more successive promotions followed before the club hit a stumbling block and risked relegation. The decision was made to Bring Mick Foster in as manager from Buckingham Town, who brought several of his players with him, rescuing the season where they finished in eighth in the end. 97/98 was Fosters best season, narrowly missing out on promotion and winning the Vandanel Cup and the Beds Premier Cup.

Former players Jason Reed and Tony Luff took over as joint managers in 1998/99, having a good run in the FA Trophy, finally losing to the eventual winners Tiverton Town in the fifth round Infront of a bumper crown of 1,566 at the New Eyrie.

Roger Ashby arrived the following season, with another strong cup run, this time losing out to Conference side Yeovil Town in the fourth round of the FA Trophy Infront of 2,010.

The change of millennium also saw changes for the Eagles as they become a Private Limited Company, owned by David Howells. A generally poor season but great run in the FA Cup saw Match of the Day cameras arrive at the Eyrie as a bumper crowd enjoyed our 0-0 draw against then Division 2 Peterborough United, the replay at London Road saw Bedford miss out in a 2-1 score line.

Ashby's departure saw the arrival of former Northern Ireland international and Northampton Town Manager Kevin Wilson, results improved with him, but he soon departed to Aylesbury United. Dave Randell was next to take charge, but a poor run of results saw him replaced by Nick Platnauer.

Platnauers first season in charge saw the team just miss out on promotion, but his second in 2005/06 saw the club move into its new facilities at the beginning of the season with a new function room and football facilities up to National Conference standard. The club were consistent throughout the season and earned a Playoff final spot at Chippenham. The Eagles had their day with a magnificent 3-2 win, the winning goal coming from a wonder strike by Tom Bonner two minutes from time. The Eagles now facing a new challenge in Nationwide South, the highest standard the club have played in since re-formation in 1990.

The Eagles found life hard in the Conference South and in February 2007, Platnauer resigned, being replaced by Stuart Bimson. Results improved, but they were not enough to prevent relegation, and Bedford's short foray into Conference football was over.

Things got worse the following season, with a second relegation only avoided by the financial problems of other teams. Lee Howarth took over in the 2008/09 season, but struggled to find form, being replaced the following season by former Reading Captain and Welsh International Ady Williams. Survival in the division came in the last game of the season, where a 2-0 win over Tiverton saw survival by a point. The following season saw assistant manager Ady Hall promoted to the top job, but he struggled to find form and Nick Platnauer returned to the club as his assistant before taking the helm again.

Platnauer's departure in 2013, saw a string of other manager appointments in the following years. Lee Barman from Cranfield United, former player Danny Nicholls, and Wellingborough Manager Craig Adams, who was in charge as the Eagles were relegated to Southern League Division One.

Jon Taylor took over in 2015/16 and his first full season in charge the following year saw a mid-table finish. The 2017/18 season saw one of the club's most significant moments, when in February 2018 the club was bought by a local consortium headed by David and Jon Taylor, while on the pitch the team missed out on playoffs, finishing once in 8th place. Rebuilding, of the club and the team followed during the Summer with several former league players joining. The team enjoyed a fantastic run in both the FA Cup and Trophy in 2018/19, but that affected results in the League, although they did make the playoffs, losing out to Corby Town.

On 13th October 2019 the passing of owner David Taylor, saw his son and Manager Jon become club Director. With Jon moving upstairs Assistant Manager Nathan Abbey stepped up as Manager, winning his first match, but losing the next seven in nine, eventually being replaced by former player Mark Duckett. The season was declared null and void due to Covid-19, and work began preparing for the resumption of football in September 2020. An early exit in the FA Cup and defeat in the first League match last season saw Duckett depart, to be replaced by current manager Gary Setchell. Setchell and his assistant Darren Edey started their tenure well last season, remaining undefeated until the season was eventually curtailed once again.

The 2021-22 season saw the prize the Eagles have been pursuing for so long finally come into fruition as Setchell led his team to become Southern League Division One Central champions, finishing the season ten points ahead of second placed Berkhamsted. A remarkable team performance with Eagles legend Rene Howe's thirty-three goals also giving him the divisions golden boot.

The 2022/23 season saw a return to step three football, competing in the Southern League Premier Division Central, the first time at that level since 2014. The season started well, with memorable wins against Barwell, Hednesford, Hitchin, Rushall and Coalville. However, with the club just above the relegation zone, there was a parting with Gary Setchell. Graeme Tomlinson and Callum Donnelly took temporary charge for the rest of the season, but were unable to keep the Eagles from avoiding the drop and a return to step four.

In early May 2023, Leighton Town manager Lee Bircham was appointed to the role of Eagles manager. He arrived at the Eyrie having guided success to Leighton Town, Berkhamsted and managed at Hemel Hempstead. A total rebuild of the squad took place, and the Eagles started the season well with wins against Kidlington and Barton Rovers in the first two fixtures



Bedford Town Pen Pics

Nathan McDonald (GK) - Nathan was Bedford's first signing of the Lee Bircham era and joined the Eagles in late May 2023. Nathan started off at Southend United as a youngster and then went on to play for various non-league clubs like Braintree Town, Chelmsford City and Enfield Town. He spent years with Enfield and made over three-hundred appearances for Town before making the switch to Bedford.

Elliot Duffy (GK) - A product of Bedford Town's Youth Development, Elliot is a young keeper with plenty of promise, who joined the first team squad for the 2021/22 season as cover for Alex Street. The 2022/23 season has seen Duffy sign his first contract with the Eagles after some great cup performances the season prior.

James Towell (DEF) - James was the second summer signing for the Eagles and joined after eight years at Leighton Town. He began his career at Berkhamsted and spent three years with the comrades before moving to Leighton. He made an impressive 378 appearances for Leighton mainly at right back and scored forty-six goals. James was a part of Leighton's 2022/23 title winning team under Lee Bircham. He then joined the Eagles in the summer and reunited with Lee among other teammates.

Harry Seabrook (DEF) - Harry was another one to come through the door for the Eagles early in the summer. He began his career at Harpenden Town where he shone at centre-back. He later played for sides such as Bovingdon FC and Tring Athletic before moving to Leighton Town. Harry did very well at Leighton under Lee Bircham and after the title winning 2022/23 season with Leighton, he moved to the Eyrie.

Kyle Connolly (DEF) - Kyle was another one to join the Eagles from Leighton Town. He spent his youth years in the academy systems at Watford and Arsenal before joining Hemel Hempstead Town. He helped the Tudors gain promotion to the National League South in 2014. He played 150 times for Hemel before joining Kings Langley. After leaving Kings Langley, he linked up with Lee Bircham at Leighton Town for the 2022/23 season. After winning the title, he joined Bedford Town alongside many other former Leighton players to play under Lee Bircham again.

Alex Collard (DEF) - Alex began his career at Aylesbury FC and Mursley before joining Aylesbury United. He also played for Kempston Rovers before making the switch to AFC Rushden & Diamonds. After a few seasons at Hayden Road, Alex joined Tamworth FC. He captained the lambs to the league title in the 2022/23 season as Tamworth gained promotion to the National League North. After a brilliant season with the Lambs, he joined Bedford Town as captain ahead of the 2023/24 season.

Jack Green (DEF/MID) - Jack started his career playing for St Albans City nine years ago. He later played for Dunstable Town and Hitchin Town where he had some successful years in Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire. He spent five years at Hitchin and had stints at Colney Heath and Harpenden Town. He then permanently joined Walthamstow last season before joining the Eagles.

Shane Bush (DEF/FWD) - Shane has had a strong career so far and has played centre-back and striker for different clubs. Throughout his career, he has played for Leighton Town, Dunstable Town, Kempston Rovers, Chesham United, Biggleswade Town, AFC Rushden & Diamonds and Newport Pagnell Town. He joined Bedford Town in the summer of 2023.

Ben Walster (DEF) - Ben played for Hitchin Town for eight years from 2014 to 2022 and has been a regular at Top Field in recent years. He also had stints at Chesham United and Biggleswade Town and has years of step three experience. He joins Bedford Town in step four as a centre-back who plays direct football.

Ben Spaul (MID) - Ben was another player who joined the Eagles from Leighton. Ben began his career in North London with Cockfosters before joining Welwyn Garden City. He then linked up with Lee Bircham at Berkhamsted for the first time in his career after leaving Welwyn. Ben then returned to Welwyn and joined Leighton Town in 2022 and reunited with Lee Bircham. After winning the title last season, he rejoined Lee at Bedford this summer.



Bedford Town Pen Pics

Emmanuel Dahie (MID) - Emmanuel has previously played for Clean Slate FC and MK Gallacticos before joining Kempston Rovers. Manny did very well at Kempston and provided the Walnuts with a strong, physical presence in midfield. Manny has plenty of great experience at step four. He was impressing for Kempston and was snapped up by Bedford Town in the summer of 2023.

Will Summerfield (MID) - Will is a familiar face at the Eyrie as he played a vital role in the famous 2021/22 title winning season. Will was in the MK Dons academy and had been loaned out to a few local non-league sides like Bedford Town and Arlesey Town. He joined Hemel Hempstead Town permanently after his release and later joined Berkhamsted under Lee Bircham. He starred in this comrades team before returning to Bedford Town. After winning the league with Bedford, he went on dual registration with Bedford and Leighton Town. He then recommitted to Bedford in summer 2023.

Adam Watkins (MID) - Adam was in the Luton Town academy at a young age and had various loan spells at Arlesey Town, Kidderminster Harriers and Eastleigh FC. He was released in 2013 and signed for Dunstable Town. He then joined Bedford Town in 2016 and then played for lots of clubs like Royston Town, Chesham United and Cambridge City. He joined Berkhamsted for the 2022/23 season as they want promotion to step three. Watkins played a vital part in this. He then signed for Bedford Town in 2023.

Dominic Morgan-Griffiths (MID) - Dominic played for the Eagles back in 2016 under Jon Taylor but moved on to Tooting & Mitcham. He later played for Hartley Wintney and then joined Hemel Hempstead Town under Lee Bircham. He remained there for a few years and then joined Bedford Town in the summer. This was quite a signing for the Eagles as many step two sides were fighting for his signature.

Josh Page (MID) - Josh is a product of our youth system. He played in Australia with Perth Scorchers before returning the UK for his education. He was involved with the first team throughout preseason 2020, while still playing for the u18's. In 2022/23 Page had dual registration, also playing for Eynesbury Rovers. In that season he was awarded a two-year contract.

Callum Donnelly (MID) - Club Captain. Callum joined the Eagles in the 2017/18 season from Hitchin Town where he made over 300 appearances. He left Bedford in the Summer of 2020 before re-joining late September 2020. His previous clubs include Cambridge City and Boreham Wood. Currently assisting Lee Bircham in a player-coach role.

Louis Walsh (FWD) - Louis joins the Eagles after an impressive pre-season on trial with Bedford Town. Louis spent his youth at Barnsley and had different stints at Nottingham Forest, Southend United and Barnet FC. He joins Bedford Town after having a brilliant pre-season where he played most pre-season matches. The exciting, young forward is one to watch for Bedford.

Adam Cunnington (FWD) - Adam joined Bedford in Summer 2023 after spending a successful year at Enfield Town. Adam started his career in 2005 and played for Barton Rovers, Leighton Town and Hitchin Town. He also went on to play for Aylesbury United, Rothwell Town, Stamford AFC and Barwell. He joined Solihull Moors in the Conference North and then moved to Kettering Town in the Conference. He stepped up again and joined league two side Dagenham & Redbridge. He also went on to play for Tamworth, Cambridge United, Bristol Rovers, Ebbsfleet United, Woking, Bromley, Billericay Town, Dartford, Hemel Hempstead Town, Romford, Hornchurch, Cheshunt, Enfield Town and then Bedford Town.

Harry Crawford (FWD) - Harry started his career at Southend United where he made 33 appearances for United in League One. He was loaned out to Dover Athletic and also played for Dartford shortly after. His strong performances with Dartford earned him a move to Barnet FC before returning to Dartford. He later played for Boreham Wood, St Albans City, Welling United, Hampton & Richmond and Kings Langley before joining the Eagles.

Archie McClelland (FWD) - Archie started off at London Colney in 2014 and left Cotlandswick in 2017. He played for Berkhamsted and Harpenden Town and later signed for Leighton Town in 2019. He played 119 times for Leighton and scored 53 goals for Town before making the move to Bedford Town and rejoining Lee Bircham. Archie is a great goalscorer and an asset to the team.

Ryan Blake (FWD) - Ryan began his career at Hemel Hempstead Town in 2009 where he stayed for three years. He went on to play for Aylesbury FC, Beaconsfield SYCOB, Burnham, Hayes & Yeading and Chesham United. At Chesham, he was thriving and bagged twenty goals for Chesham in the 2014/15 season. He spent another five years at Chesham before moving to Thame United. After a couple years, he joined Berkhamsted. He helped the Comrades win the league title and scored 22 goals in their title winning season. He then joined Bedford Town in summer 2023.

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Player Sponsorship

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Charlie Crowley - Mark Boreham

Yasin Boodhoo - David Vass

David Martins - TBC

Josh Steele - TBC

Zak Browne - Howard Stroud

Manny Olagunju - TBC

Sam Tring - TBC

Zak Guerfi - TBC

James Kalozci - Mark Boreham

Ruben Marquez - TBC

Cyrus Babaie - TBC

Ethan Kessel - David Stroud

James Mulley - Gavin Meaden

Jack Vasey - Jonny Lane

Adam Pollock - TBC

Henry Jones - Brian Randall

Lucas Jordan -  SEAGER COACHING

Bailey Stevenson - Stan Johnson

Brad Wadkins - Hywel Rhys-Williams

Dernell Wynter - Ribiero Coaching

Donnabhan Green - I'm Broke Baby



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Player Statistics

2023/24 Season

	Starts	Used Sub	Total	Apps Rate	Goals	Strike Rate	Yellow	Red
Yasin Boodhoo	7	0	7	70%	0	0	1	1
Freddie Brown	0	2	2	20%	0	0	0	0
Zak Brown	7	1	8	80%	0	0	4	1
Josh Bryant	4	0	4	40%	0	0	1	0
Charlie Crowley	7	0	7	70%	0	0	1	0
Donnabhan Green	3	0	3	30%	0	0	0	0
Zak Guelfi	5	2	7	100%	0	0	4	0
Alex Harris	6	1	7	70%	0	0	1	0
Henry Jones	3	6	9	90%	1	11%	1	0
Lucas Jordan	2	3	5	50%	1	20%	1	0
James Kaloczi	8	1	9	90%	1	11%	2	0
Ethan Kessel	4	5	9	90%	0	0	0	0
Ryan Kirwan	3	0	3	30%	0	0	0	0
Ruben Marquez	2	0	2	20%	0	0	0	0
David Martins	0	1	1	10%	0	0	0	0
James Mulley	8	1	9	90%	0	0	1	0
Manny Olagunju	2	0	2	20%	0	0	0	0
Adam Pollock	3	0	3	30%	0	0	1	0
Josh Steele	6	0	6	60%	1	17%	3	1
Bailey Stevenson	6	3	9	90%	2	22%	3	0
Jack Vasey	1	0	1	10%	0	0	1	0
Brad Wadkins	9	1	10	100%	4	40%	2	0
Dernell Wynter	9	0	9	90%	5	56%	1	0

All-Time Stats

	Starts	Used Sub	Total	Goals	Debut
Yasin Boodhoo	140	23	163	26	20/08/2014
Freddie Brown	0	2	2	0	26/08/2023
Zak Brown	12	1	13	0	01/02/2023
Josh Bryant	4	0	4	0	12/08/2023
Charlie Crowley	100	0	100	0	12/09/2020
Donnabhan Green	3	0	3	0	12/08/2023
Zak Guelfi	5	2	7	0	20/07/2023
Alex Harris	9	4	13	0	05/11/2019
Henry Jones	3	8	11	2	10/04/2023
Lucas Jordan	6	6	12	2	11/03/2023
James Kaloczi	8	1	9	1	20/07/2023
Ethan Kessel	4	5	9	1	21/02/2023
Ryan Kirwan	14	1	15	0	28/01/2023
Ruben Marquez	2	0	2	0	23/09/2023
David Martins	0	1	1	0	26/09/2023
Mannu Olagunju	2	0	2	0	28/09/2023
James Mulley	20	2	22	0	02/01/2023
Adam Pollock	3	0	3	0	12/08/2023
Josh Steele	13	0	13	1	25/02/2023
Bailey Stevenson	17	5	22	10	26/12/2022
Jack Vasey	34	14	48	6	10/12/2019
Brad Wadkins	9	1	19	4	20/07/2023
Dernell Wynter	9	0	9	5	12/08/2023



Pen Pics



Charlie Crowley (GK): Joined the club for the 20-21 season from Isthmian South Central club Waltham Abbey. Experienced keeper, who has also seen service with Wingate & Finchley and Hayes & Yeading. Virtually an ever present, over the last four seasons.

Donnabhan Green (GK): 20-year-old goalkeeper who is a product of National League Borehamwood's much vaunted PASE academy. Spent last season as first choice between the sticks at Edgware & Kingsbury of the Combined Counties League.

Yasin Boodhoo (DEF): Highly popular player who came back to the Pexhurst Stadium after three seasons with Colney Heath. Previously an ever-present with WGC in their successful Spartan South Midlands League days, playing in two Championship sides during his initial six seasons. Has also served London Colney. Recently had over 150 appearances for the club recognised.

Jack Vasey (MID): Returned to the club from Ware early last season. Local WGC boy, who previously played with Borehamwood, Bedford Town and Cambridge City, as a forward, before joining his home-town club. On leaving Herts Lane, he had a spell with Biggleswade Town, but has shone in a midfield role since re-joining the Citizens for a second time.

Josh Bryant (DEF): Close season signing from Hertford Town, where he spent three seasons, making over 80 appearances. Formerly in Stevenage FC's academy, he also had short spells with Beds clubs Stotfold and Potton United before joining the county town team.

Alex Harris (DEF): Local boy who skippered the club's youth team four seasons ago, before going to play and study in the USA, playing in college football in both Iowa and West Virginia. Returned early this year and joined former manager Nick Ironton at Walthamstow, but after an injury hit spell there, has rejoined his first club for this season.

James Mulley (MID): Vastly experienced midfielder, who has served Hayes & Yeading, Braintree Town and Maidenhead United, making a century of appearances for all three clubs. Also helped AFC Wimbledon reach the Football League in a season with the Dons. Proved a tremendous influence in the Citizens' midfield in 2022-23 and was rewarded by being made skipper for this campaign.

James Kaloczi (MID/DEF): Landmark close season signing, who joined WGC from now divisional rivals Kings Langley, but is best known for his six seasons in two spells with National League South St Albans City, his home town club. Equally at home in central defence or central midfield.

Zak Brown (DEF): Very quick defender who joined WGC from Sutton Common Rovers of the Isthmian League South Central. Spent three years in Norwich City's academy and played two dozen times in Bedford Town's Southern League Div 1 Central title-winning line-up of 21-22. Also had a period with Premier South Met Police.

Adam Pollock (MID): Plucked by WGC from step 6 football with Enfield Borough of the Eastern Counties League Div 1, this Australian born midfielder impressed on trial pre-season with form that prompted boss Marc Weatherstone to sign him, after recommendation from a top Australian coach.

Ethan Kessel (MID): Midfield signing, who previously played for manager Marc Weatherstone at Wingate & Finchley. Joined Welwyn GC from last season's Div 1 Central champions Berkhamsted and has had previous experience with the SSML's London Lions and at a number of Essex clubs.



Pen Pics (cont)



Ryan Kirwan (DEF): Skilled full-back, who has rejoined the club a month into the new season, after signing for Premier South Hanwell Town at the end of last season. Found opportunities hard to come by with the west Londoners, so has returned to WGC. Formerly played with Enfield Town and Brightlingsea Regent, having begun his career with North Greenford United.

Manny Olagunju (DEF): Central defender signed from Essex Senior League Coggeshall Town, but previously a promising development player with Chelmsford City of the National League South. Also had a short spell with Isthmian League Cheshunt.

Ruben Marquez (MID): Recently signed midfielder who joined WGC from Chippenham Town of the National League South. Irish born, he has extensive experience in the League of Ireland, notably playing for Drogheda Utd and Athlone Town, among others.

David Martins (MID): Speedy teenager plucked from youth football in North London. Plays in a wide role on the left flank, but can also double up as a sharp-tackling full-back.

Freddie Brown (MID): Midfielder with previous experience at Southern League Premier Central Royston Town. Also had a short spell at Kempston Rovers and has also seen service with Tilbury of the Essex Senior League.

Josh Steele (DEF): Powerful central defender who joined Welwyn GC from Div 1 Central rivals Ware last season, where he only stayed a couple of months, having joined from the then sadly defunct Harlow Town. Has had previous experience with Isthmian Premier outfit Margate and Basildon United.

Lucas Jordan (FWD): Six foot four inch teenage striker, who has made a real impression since claiming a place in the side. Signed from Enfield Town, where he came through their youth sides, but has shone when given greater opportunities with WGC.

Dernell Wynter (FWD): Manager Marc Weatherstone's first close season signing captured from his former club, Wingate & Finchley. The lively forward, who can play anywhere along the frontline, has also played for Potters Bar Town, Harrow Borough, Enfield Town and Ware.

Henry Jones (FWD): Teenager, who has stepped up from the club's under 18 side, where he was an outstanding performer and regular marksman. Scored one of the goals of the season last campaign, to earn a point at Hadley, to underline manager Weatherstone's faith in him.

Bailey Stevenson (FWD): Young forward, recruited from SSML Cockfosters 18 months ago, where he has had a prolific scoring period in the first half of the season. Formerly a junior player with Colney Heath. Has had recurring problems with a shoulder injury but it hasn't stopped him being a regular marksman.

Brad Wadkins (FWD): Experienced frontman who joins WGC after helping last club Berkhamsted to the Southern League Div 1 Central title and promotion last season. Had two spells with Chesham United, played National League football with Slough Town and also seen service with Hendon, Potters Bar and Chalfont St Peter, among others.

Zak Guerfi (MID): Has returned to football with WGC after a year away. When just 19, was an unused substitute for the Tunisian national team in a full international v Egypt and has also been capped by the nation's Under 18 team. Began with Stevenage FC's academy, has played in both Sweden, where he helped the Bodens BK side to promotion and in Tunisian league football.

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Today's Teams



Welwyn Garden City

Charlie Crowley (GK)
Donnabhan Green (GK)
Josh Bryant
Josh Steele
Manny Olagunju
Zak Browne
Alex Harris
Josh Steele
Yasin Boodhoo
Zak Guerfi
James Mulley
James Kaloczi
Ruben Marquez
David Martins
Ethan Kessel
Adam Pollock
Jack Vasey
Brad Wadkins
Henry Jones
Bailey Stevenson
Lucas Jordan
Dernell Wynter
Cyrus Babaie

Manager: Marc Weatherstone

Colours: Claret & Blue

Referee: James Cliffe

Assistant Referee: Christopher Severino



Bedford Town

Nathan McDonald (GK)
Elliot Duffy (GK)
James Towell
Harry Seabrook
Kyle Connelly
Alex Collard
Jack Green
Shane Bush
Ben Walster
Ben Spaul
Emmanuel Dahie
Will Summerfield
Dominic Morgan-Griffiths
Josh Page
Callum Donnelly
Louis Walsh
Adam Cunnington
Harry Crawford
Archie McClelland
Ryan Blake

Manager: Lee Bircham

Colours: All Blue

Assistant Referee: Oliver Hollyoak