

MOLTEN SPORTS SPARTAN SOUTH MIDLANDS FOOTBALL LEAGUE

NEWSLETTER No. 2
By Bill Scholes

Monday 24th August 2008

It was goals, goals, goals all the way over the Bank holiday week end, with a total of 133 on Saturday, and a further 39 on Monday. The net bulged 47 times in the Premier Division, an average of just over 4 goals per game, but Division Two proved the most entertaining, with 59 goals on the Saturday, (an average of 6.5) and a further 39 on Monday.

HAT TRICK HEROES

There were 6 hat tricks recorded on Saturday, and 2 on Monday- five of the eight coming from Division Two. In the Premier Division, Ashley Addison scored three for Berkhamsted and Blaise O'Brien did likewise for Hanwell Town, whilst in Division One, Daniel Staples of Hatfield Town left it until the 2nd minute of added on time to complete his hat trick. Pride of place, however went to Ryan Smith of The 61FC in Division Two who scored three in the first 12 minutes of the game and then went on to add another two. In the same game, Antonio Armiere scored MK Wanderers first hat trick in the SSMFL. Also in Div Two, Daddy Moses recorded Bucks Student Union's first ever hat trick in the SSMFL. Two more hat tricks on Monday, another for the The61FC and this time it was Hayden Wills on target, and Billy Sutherland scored three for Risborough Rangers.

PREMIER DIVISION

With three games gone, only Aylesbury Vale and Langford are left with 100% records. Langford continued their fine start to the season as they went top of the table with an emphatic 6-1 win over lowly Holmer Green. Conditions were fine for football with a perfect pitch and nice late summer sunshine. The game was really over in the first 35 minutes, as the home side raced into a three goal lead, through Joe Del-Salle, Lee Pateman and Danny Howell. The 2nd half began at a fast pace with the visitors refusing to buckle, and it was Holmer who scored the next goal on 69 minutes after the lively Andy Shed broke away on the left and crossed for Dean Allen to calmly side foot home. This galvanised the visitors and play swung from end to end, but a brilliant goal by Rob Groves on 78 minutes put Langford back in the driving seat and they ran riot in the closing stages with further goals from Pateman again and Matt Franklin. A couple of miles up the road the conditions were also perfect at Biggleswade Town's very impressive new ground where Aylesbury Vale maintained their good start to the season with a 2-1 win. It has been a long wait for the Waders before their new home was up and running but the wait must certainly have been worthwhile.....a ground not only for today, but very clearly for the future, and one which undoubtedly will put many grounds at a higher level to shame. Unfortunately the Waders performance on the field could not quite live up to the grandeur of their surroundings, although they did take the lead with an excellent goal when Dan Heron finished off good work from Ryan Redford. The result may well have been different if Heron had converted the penalty awarded by the vigilant referee, for a push in the box, but his shot was weak and easily saved by Eddie Falmer. The crowd of 110 were well entertained as both sides had chances, but Vale equalized in the 70th minute when Neil Roberts had no problem in disposing of his penalty, correctly awarded for handball. The force was now with the Vale, and some excellent football saw the retuning Vinnie Iannone slot home with just 9 minutes left to give the Aylesbury side all three points. Mention must be made of the excellent performance of

referee Lee Marshallsay and his two assistants, which was well in keeping with the splendid surroundings. If you enjoy seeing full use being made of the onion bag, then Broxbourne Boro was the place to be, as it bulged 10 times in Boro's game with Kentish Town. A brace from Anthony Burke and one from Danny Ward gave Boro a 3-2 lead at half time. The Premier Division newcomers fought back in the second half and two goals from Jonathon Donoghue and Aaron Hutchins second swept Town into a 5-3 lead with 5mins remaining. Rob Teppett's 85th minute goal gave Boro hope, but Daniele Quattromini wrapped it up in added on time. Oxhey Jets demolished Brimsdown Rovers 5-0 helped by a brace each from Tim O'Mara and Jamie Arthur, and Berkhamsted Town, thanks largely to Ashley Addison's hat trick, scored their second "fifer" of the campaign as they beat Haringey Boro 5-1. Tring Athletic recorded their first win of the new campaign, by 3-0 at home to Welwyn Garden City - Ty North with two and lucky talisman Andy Humphreys doing the damage, whilst two goals in three minutes halfway through the second half enabled St. Margaretsbury to come away from Leverstock Green with a 2-0 win. The ex Hillingdon Boro striker Blaise O'Brien is back in SSMFL football, this time with Hanwell Town, and his second half hat trick for his new club helped them on their way to a 4-1 over Biggleswade United. Two of last seasons front runners, Hertford Town and Chalfont St. Peter, went into Saturday's game at Hertingfordbury Park without a league win under their respective belts, but despite going behind to an early Reece Lyons goal, the Saints fought back with a pair of penalties from Danny Hughes to secure all three points, leaving the hosts still searching for their first win. Harefield United still remain unbeaten, but their 100% record was spoilt as they drew 1-1 away at Cockfosters. Kingsbury London Tigers beat Colney Heath 1-0 with a 50th minute penalty from Tarik Ellekhlifi, a result that leaves Colney and Holmer Green as the only two clubs yet to record a point.

DIVISION ONE

Again, only two clubs are left with a 100% record. With newly promoted Kings Langley heading the table by dint of a better goal difference than Bedford Town Reserves. In the battle of two of the newly promoted clubs, Kings Langley emerged on top against Crawley Green, thanks to a Lee Bircham penalty after 67 minutes, whilst Bedford Town Reserves also recorded a 1-0 win – this time away at Buckingham Athletic. Hatfield Town, promoted from the Herts Senior League, recorded the division's biggest win of the day as they ran out 5-0 winners over Bedford FC – a Daniel Staples hat trick helping them on their way. Tokyngton Manor, playing their first home game at their new ground –ex Viking Sports - celebrated with a 2-0 win over Stony Stratford Town, and in so doing dented the visitors' previous 100% record. Scorers for the Manor were Jason Nicalou and Andy Watson. A degree of symmetry occurred at Brache Sparta, where the crowd of 4 were treated to 4 goals, as the home side drew 2-2 with visitors Sport London e Benfica. The division's largest crowd of the day (122), gathered at Royston Town to see the Crow's hopes of another victory dashed in the final seconds as New Bradwell St. Peter's Lee White scored the vital equaliser – Alan Reid having put the Crows in front in the 76th minute. It may have been Saturday, but as far as Ampthill Town were concerned it was Mundy, Mundy. A goal in each half from the Mundy brothers sealed the fate of Amersham Town on a sunny afternoon in Bedfordshire. The game was only five minutes old when Paul Mundy broke through the Amersham defence to rifle a great shot from twenty yards into the top corner of the visitors net. The rest of the half was fairly even but whilst Amersham had plenty of possession, they had little penetration up front. The home team started the second half well and a header from a corner was kicked off the Amersham goal line. However, the home supporters did not have to wait long for the second goal. On 55 minutes, a free kick was given 25 yards from goal and Michael Mundy's shot was deflected off the wall and into the Amersham net. Ampthill pressed forward and another effort hit the visitors' crossbar and bounced out. Amersham tried to get back into the match but they did not threaten

the home goal and Ampthill ran out comfortable 2-0 winners. **Cranfield United** recovered from a 2-0 deficit in their game away at **Harpenden Town** to record an excellent 4-2 victory. Ali Collins (31 minutes) and Ian Turkentine (66 minutes) had seemingly put Town on the way to their first win of the season, but Cranfield scored 4 times in the last 16 minutes to turn the game on its head. Mick Hughes and Carl Simms pulled Utd level with 10 minutes to go and a brace from Dominic Lawless did the rest. Last seasons strugglers **Winslow United** recorded their second win, beating Sun Postal Sports 2-1 away – ex Aylesbury Vale stalwart Paul Talbot giving them the perfect start with a 2nd minute goal. Steve Magona's 65th minute goal for **Hoddesdon Town** enabled the Lilywhites to collect their first 3 points of the campaign as they beat relegated **London Colney** 1-0.

DIVISION TWO

Padbury United remain the only team in the division with a 100% record, but they had to produce a miraculous recovery to do so. In their game away at **Pitstone & Ivinghoe**, they were losing 4-1 two minutes into the second half, but an incredible spell of 4 goals in just 10 minutes, from Steve Keane, Greg Coppock, Kevin Millington and Colin Wynne saw the game turn on its head and Padbury emerge as 5-4 winners. Another team with a late comeback were **AFC Dunstable**, who were trailing 4-2 to **Bucks Student Union**, Daddy Moses scoring a hat trick for the students, but two goals in the last 15 minutes preserved their unbeaten record – the face saving goal from Lee McCulloch actually coming in the 4th minute of added on time. **Wodson Park** saw off fellow newcomers **Bletchley Town** by 7-0 to keep pace with AFC Dunstable at the top. There was a real goal fest at **The 61 FC**, where the home side ran out 7-4 victors over **MK Wanderers**. There were two hat tricks in this game, Antonio Armieri for the Wanderers, but this was topped by Ryan Smith's five goals for The 61 FC. Ambitious **Tring Corinthians** returned from **Kent Athletic** with a 3-0 win under their belts, courtesy of a Ben Gray double and a single from Luke Byrne, whilst two late goals from Darren Edwards and Adrian Fontenelle saw **Caddington** triumph over **Aston Clinton** by 4-2. **Mursley United** overcame their visitors **Totternhoe** by the same 4-2 scoreline, and **Risborough Rangers** scored their second victory of the campaign with a 4-1 defeat of **Old Bradwell United**. **Markyate** still remain in the top half of the table despite their 3-1 reverse away to **Hadley**, for whom Danny Gruar scored a double.

UPDATE FOR MONDAY 26th AUGUST

Both **AFC Dunstable** 3-1 winners at home to **Caddington**, and **Wodson Park**, 4-0 winners away to **Aston Clinton**, maintained their good starts to the season, whilst **Hadley** moved up into 3rd place with 4-0 win away at **Totternhoe**. The days highest scorers were **Risborough Rangers** who ran in 10 goals, including a hat trick from Billy Sutherland, without reply against luckless **MK Wanderers**. Another hat trick man popped up at **The 61 FC**, where Hayden Wills' three goals helped the home side to a 5-1 win over **Bletchley Town**. There was an entertaining game at Hemel Hempstead FC, where temporary tenants **Tring Corinthians** were held to a 2-2 draw by **Bucks Student Union**. Tring went into a two goal lead, thanks to a brace from Lee Herring, which should have stretched to four or five but for some extremely wayward finishing, but the Students rode their luck and came back strongly in the second half to gain a share of the spoils with goals from Daddy Moses and Gerald Kelly.

JETS FUND RAISING COMMITMENT TO THE PEACE HOSPICE, WATFORD

Oxhey Jets have forgone the advertising on their first team shirts to promote the fantastic work done by the Peace Hospice, Watford. Jets launched the new look on Saturday in the FA Cup tie with Hertford Town at The Boundary Stadium (which Jets won 5-0). Jets will be holding special events at the club, and will be inviting all visiting teams to enter a special

"Crossbar Challenge" for which every person that has a go pays into the Peace Hospice collection pot. "Jets have fundraised for many different good causes over the years and are pleased and proud to be supporting our local Peace Hospice" said a club Spokesman. The Hospice cares for people living with a terminal illness, and their families across South West Hertfordshire. They provide inpatient care, day care, an outpatient service, a hospice at home service as well as bereavement support. They are planning to spend £3.5 million this year in both running and developing their services. They only receive 20% of this amount from the Health service with the remaining 80% needing to come from voluntary contributions. All the care they provide to their patients and their families is free.

SUCCESSFUL MEMORIAL GOLF DAY FOR CARL COUZENS CARL'S DAD LIFTS THE CUP! Golf Day raises £700 for asthma research

For once the forecasters got it wrong as the predicted heavy rain stayed away and the sun shone across the Baroness Course at Beadlow Manor for the inaugural golf day in memory of Referee's Association Secretary Carl Couzens, who died so tragically in June, three weeks short of his 37th birthday. Former Spartan South Midlands League referee, Sean Comerford, and his wife Janice, arranged a four-ball Stapleford event and among those taking part was the Association President Barry Firmin, League Chairman Pat Burns and referees Simon Anscomb, Geoff Lewis, Mark Ives, Ken Coniam, John Farries and Bill Hamilton. When all the scorecards had been closely scrutinised, the winner and first holder of the much coveted Silver Cup was none other than Carl's dad, Ian – most appropriate, and I'm sure Carl was smiling from up there in the heavens! Afterwards, the 24 golfers sat down to a three-course dinner in the clubhouse suite and were joined by Carl's mum, Anita, sister, Nicola and other close relatives and friends. A raffle and auction helped raise a total of over £700 for asthma research, this to be added to the £2000 already generously donated to the Imperial College Trust in Carl's memory. Ian Couzens ended the day by telling everyone: "We miss him terribly but take comfort in knowing Carl touched so many people's lives and will always be remembered. Today there has been much reminiscing and sharing of anecdotes and I know Carl would have wanted everyone to have a good time because he certainly would have done!" See you there next year.

Thanks to Bill Hamilton for this report – I didn't know you excelled in so many sports, Bill

TITTLE-TATTLE

How many of you are aware that Refs Secretary Mick Ewen always had a hankering as a young boy to star in The Sweeny – fancied himself as George Regan! However, he didn't make it, and had to be content with the next best thing – joining the Police Force. Rumour has it that the hankering has returned, and that he intends to audition for the part of DCI Jack Meadows in The Bill – perhaps it's something to do with the new young feisty PC, Beth Green? Whilst on the subject of Police matters, did you hear the one about the two refs who were in each others pockets? Having received his fee and expenses, Alan Moorhouse found his pockets empty after the game, and reported the crime to Detective Chief Inspector Ewen. Shortly afterwards fellow assistant Darren Turney arrived home to find Mr Moorhouse's fee in his trousers pocket. Don't ask!!

There have been many and varied excuses given by referees for not keeping appointments / attending meetings etc, but what about this. A certain referee didn't attend the FAMOA day at the Beds FA. Not your normal reason for non attendance though. This one was a belter. His hamster snuffed it!

**All items of news, interest, tittle-tattle, etc. re your club, are very welcome.
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