

MOLTEN SPORTS SPARTAN SOUTH MIDLANDS FOOTBALL LEAGUE

NEWSLETTER No. 4
By Bill Scholes

Saturday 6th September 2008

There does seem to be some sort of renaissance of clubs in the north of our manor, as we now have three clubs in the Biggleswade area (Langford + the Biggleswades) in the top six places in the Premier Division, and Bedford Town Reserves are top of Division One. Will it last – I guess we have to wait and see?

There are just the two hat tricks for SSMFL players this weekend – John Barker for St. Margaretsbury and Chris Hill for Winslow United.

FA Carlsberg VASE - FIRST ROUND QUALIFYING

I do think it's a bit sad when clubs from the same league are drawn against each other in this competition – I realise that it is inevitable, but one of the attractions of the Vase, and the FA Cup itself, is pitting your club against clubs from other leagues. We had five (inc Friday) such intra-league clashes, and pride of place must go to **Cranfield United**, from Division One, who defeated Premier Division **Haringey Borough** 3-1 at home. All the goals came in the last 21 minutes, with Stuart Reynolds, Dominic Lawless and Martin Wells putting Cranfield three goals to the good before Uduma Kalu scored Boro's consolation goal. League leaders **Langford** had a comfortable 5-1 home win over **Cockfosters**, - the hosts going into a three goal lead thanks to a brace from Rob Groves and a single from Wes Byrne before Dave Pigden replied for the visitors. Further goals from Daniel Howell and Lee Pateman put the icing on the cake. **Broxbourne Borough** had the easiest win of the day – a walkover against **Beaumont Athletic** who withdrew from the competition! Two goals from Russell Gallagher put **London Colney** two up at half time in their all Division One clash with **Hatfield Town**, but a goal by Dave Reade, from the penalty spot and Rhys Lawrence just after half time put Hatfield back in the ball game. Almost immediately Jermaine Davey restored Colney's lead, and then extended it even further with his second. An OG from Liam Doctor completed the scoring. Friday night's game at **Hoddesdon Town**, with Colney **Heath** as the visitors, ended in despair for the Lilywhites as an OG from Dave Lovell in the 65th minute proved to be the only goal of the game. The biggest crowd of the day – 128 – was at **Tring Athletic** where the visitors were local rivals **Leverstock Green**. Possibly the very wet and windy weather was responsible for dampening the fire and passion of this local derby, but it did seem to lack the blood and thunder of previous encounters. However, an excellent game of football resulted, with a number of frantic goalmouth incidents to keep the crowd awake. There could well have been a hatful of goals, but the visitors, particularly James Armstrong, were guilty of some woeful finishing. The first goal, when it did come, was a real cracker when Green's David Parkinson went on a run from the half way line, twisting and turning defenders before powerfully shooting past keeper Clark. Tring fought back, but Milner in

the Green's goal produced a couple of excellent saves to protect the lead. The icing on the cake came just before the end when Leverstock's Australian import Lachlan Cahill unleashed an unstoppable free kick which went straight through the wall and straight through the keeper! Not a good week for Tring, who went out of both the FA Cup and FA Vase to sides from the same division in a space of 7 days. **Buckingham Athletic** put up a plucky fight against Hellenic League **Wootton Bassett Town**, holding their visitors to 2-2 at full time. However a hat trick from the visitors Shaun Terry in extra time saw Athletic finally succumb 5-3. **Hanwell Town** lived to fight another day after drawing 1-1 with **Barking**, at home – Blaise O'Brien giving them a first half lead which unfortunately they were unable to hold on to but they made no mistake in the Replay on Tuesday night, running out 6-0 winners. Luke Roodenburg scored a hat trick, Blaise O'Brien got two and Charlie Baverstock the other. No luck for our other entrants – **Amptill Town** went down 2-1 to **Bedfont**, and **Bedford** lost by the same margin to **Hullbridge Sports**, but only after extra time. Another 2-1 loss came from **Brimsdown Rovers** against **Stanstead**, whilst **Harpenden Town**'s trip to the seaside at **Southend Manor** resulted in a 3-1 reverse, and luckless **Welwyn Garden City** shipped another 6 goals, with just a solitary reply, as they went down 6-1 at home to **Daventry Town**.

PREMIER DIVISION

With **Kentish Town**'s home game falling foul of the weather, only three games were played in the Premier Division. **Holmer Green** gained their first points of the season in midweek and added another one in their home 2-2 draw against **Kingsbury London Tigers**. Henry Emenike gave Tigers an early lead which they maintained until just after the break, when two quick goals from Andy Parry and Andy Shed put the Greens in front. Tigers however fought back and equalised through Sirak Beyene. **Biggleswade United** continued their resurgence as they fought back from a two goal deficit to defeat **Hertford Town** 3-2. The Blues were two up at half time, thanks to a Kevin Cooper penalty and a Kevin Kilroy corner, and could have extended their lead but Cooper missed from the penalty spot on 61 minutes. Utd took heart from this let off, and drew level with two goals from Jason Darvall – the second from the penalty spot after Glen Draper had been dismissed. With 8 minutes left, a fine individual strike from Emanuel Langlais sealed the great comeback. An incident packed game at **Aylesbury Vale** saw **Berkhamsted Town** leapfrog over their hosts into fourth spot as they won 3-2. A serious clash of heads between two Vale players saw Kyle Kilmartin and Mark Longman eventually taken to hospital after a 40 minute hold up for ambulances to arrive, but Vale took the lead just before the end of the elongated first half through Tuesday night's cup hero Martin Kinsey. Berko responded swiftly just after the break with two goals from Wayne Barker and Ben Butler. With 6 minutes left, Neil Roberts took advantage of a goalkeeping lapse to level the scores, but a minute later Gareth Aldridge headed home to secure all 3 points, and ruin Vale's unbeaten record.

CHALLENGE TROPHY – FIRST ROUND

The big shock of Saturday's matches was the defeat of Premier Division **Harefield United** by Division Two side **The 61 FC**. Playing on their home turf, the Luton team took an 11th

minute lead through Hayden Wills, but a Paul Haynes penalty 10 minutes before half time brought the Hares level. With just 15 minutes left, Matt Terry put The 61 back in front and Klaudio Petoshi added a third shortly afterwards. Two other Premier Division clubs were also involved in away games to Division Two sides on Saturday – **St. Margaretsbury** had a comfortable 6-1 win at **Markyate**, which included John Barker's hat trick, whilst holders **Chalfont St. Peter** had a slightly bumpier ride at **Padbury United** before finally winning 5-3. The hosts held their opponents to 2-2 at half time before succumbing to a three goal blast in the second half. There was another high scoring game at **Kent Athletic**, with the home side narrowly edging out visitors **Pitstone & Ivinghoe** by 4 goals to 3. **Hadley** had a comfortable 4-1 win at home to **Totternhoe**, **Mursley** beat **Sun Postal Sports** 2-0 and Billy Sutherland's 65th minute goal for **Risborough Rangers** was enough give bragging rights over local rivals **Aston Clinton**.

MIDWEEK TIES

Two goals in extra time from Kevin Cooper helped **Hertford Town** to a 3-1 win over **Sport London e Benfica** on Monday night. Twelve games were scheduled for Tuesday night but three fell foul of the weather. There were 2 all Premier Division ties – last year's finalists **Brimsdown Rovers** beating **Berkhamsted Town** 2-0, and **Kingsbury London Tigers** beating **Holmer Green** 3-2 aet. Greens must have thought they had won when Andy Goddard put them in front with 4 minutes left, but a Tarik Ellekhlifi penalty two minutes later made the scores all square again. Henry Emenike scored the winner 15mins into extra time. Other Premier sides to go through were **Biggleswade United**, beating **Tokington Manor** 1-0 thanks to an OG, and **Broxbourne Borough**, who beat **Tring Corinthians** 4-1. For the second time in 4 days, **Buckingham Athletic** had to go to extra time, and this time they lost 4-2 to **Colney Heath**, and **Langford** maintained their impressive start to the season with a 3-0 over **Bletchley Town**. Division One clashes saw **New Bradwell St. Peter** beat rivals **Bedford FC** 6-2. **Cranfield Utd** beat **Amphill Town** 4-1 and **Hoddesdon Town** come back from **Brache Sparta** with a 3-1 win.

DIVISION ONE

The game of the day was at **Kings Langley**, where the hosts, second in the table, entertained leaders **Bedford Town Reserves**. Kings took the lead in the first half through Jack Johnson, but 20 minutes into the second half, Ashley Deverell equalised for the Town Reserves. With no further scoring, honours were even at the end of the game. A purple 10 minute patch saw Chris Hill score three goals early in the second half to ensure **Winslow United** maintained the pressure at the top, and their 3-1 win over **Brache Sparta** enabled them to draw level on points with Kings Langley. A crowd of over 100 at Garden Walk saw **Royston Town** lose their unbeaten record as they went down 3-1 to **Stony Stratford Town**. Stony were good value for their win, going into a three goal lead before Luke Robins scored Crow's consolation. Two early goals put **Crawley Green** in control of their match away at **Tokington Manor**, before they ran amok in the second half with a further five to run out 7-0 winners. There were also 7 goals scored in **New Bradwell St. Peter's** home game with **Sport London e Benfica**, but the home side were only responsible for 5 of them. Mark Kalek and Greg Tite put the Saints two up within the first 15 minutes but

Ivo Barroso narrowed the gap not long before half time. A goal from Dani Da Conceicao levelled the scores at two each with just fewer than 20 minutes left, but three goals in 11 minutes –two from Mickey O'Farrell and one from John Mulholland- produced the eventual 5-2 scoreline. The division's other game ended in a 2-2 stalemate between hosts **Arlesey Athletic** and visitors **Amersham Town**. Danny Singh gave Town the lead in the 18th minute, only for Terry Lock to bring the scores level just after the half hour mark. Town took the lead again early in the second half through Bradley Wilkinson, only for Ian Thorne to save the day with just four minutes remaining.

DIVISION TWO

Three games in Division Two and **Wodson Park** extended their lead at the top to 6 points as they came away from **Old Bradwell United** with a 2-0 win. They left it late, with Ross Murphy and Daniel Burke scoring in the last 11 minutes. **AFC Dunstable** remains in second place, but lost their unbeaten record away at **Tring Corinthians** – the home side emerging as 3-1 victors. Joynul Hoque gave Corry a first half lead and a further two from Richard Shittu and Lee Herring extended the lead to three before Felix Kyeremeh scored a late consolation for the visitors. **Bucks Student Union** is finding life a bit harder than in the Wycombe League, and they suffered their third defeat, losing 2-1 away at **Caddington**. Danny Swan and Tony Scurry put the home side two up before Daddy Moses pulled one back for the Students.

SSMFL IN THE NEWS AT WEMBLEY

The following article was spotted in the programme for the England U21 match on Friday night by eagle-eyed SSMFL referee Tom Ratheram. This season's FA Carlsberg Vase competition, the 35th in history, kicks off this weekend with the First Round Qualifying. There are two ties tonight and they both feature a former Vase winner. Hoddesdon Town, the Hertfordshire club who play in the Spartan South Midlands League, won the first Vase Final at Wembley in 1975. They take on Colney Heath at home. Whickham, the 1981 winners from Newcastle-upon-Tyne, entertain Stokesley. Nearly all of the 116 First Round Qualifying ties are due to be played tomorrow (Saturday 6 September) and they include a sprinkling of games in the London area. Clapton, a famous old club who play in east London, not far from West Ham's ground are at home to Thrapston Town while London APSA, an Asian team, plays Oxhey Jets, again within walking distance of Upton Park. Two Middlesex sides, Bedfont and Hanwell Town, have home ties-playing host to Amphill Town and Barking respectively. 514 teams have entered this season's FA Vase and they are all dreaming of The Final in May.

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

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