

MOLTEN SPORTS SPARTAN SOUTH MIDLANDS FOOTBALL LEAGUE

NEWSLETTER No. 6

By Bill Scholes

Saturday 20th September 2008

Another week with just the one hat trick – this time by Mark Reeves of Bedford FC

FA VASE– SECOND ROUND QUALIFYING

17 of our sides were involved at this stage, and when the dust had all settled we had 8 survivors going through to the next round – plus one further possible if the reinstated Brimsdown Rovers beat Eton Manor on Wednesday. Division One **Royston Town** again showed their cup credentials putting in a battling performance against Step 5 side **Southend Manor** from the Essex Senior league and well deserved their victory. Royston were ahead 1-0 at the break through a Luke Robins goal but were back to all square when Southend scored just after the restart. Craig Hammond won a penalty for a push in the area from which he converted and then just under 10 minutes later he headed home a Luke Robins cross. Southend looked to have scored a consolation goal in the dying seconds as they were awarded a penalty but the Southend skipper blasted the ball well over the bar. **Kentish Town** made the trip to **AFC Kempston Rovers** and returned with a 3-1 victory, thanks to goals from Mark Doyle, Jonathon Donoghue and Kareem Essiaghi, whilst not far away, **Leverstock** won the battle of the Greens as they came away from **Crawley Green** with a 3-2 win, but they had to do it the hard way as they were taken to extra time by the Division One newcomers, making their debut in the Vase. With six minutes left, Leverstock were 2-0 down to goals from Tom Freeman and Luke Singleton and seemingly down and out, but goals from two substitutes (Dale Sears and Jon Davies) levelled the scores, and took the game into extra time, which Leverstock had to face with only 10 men as Daniel Griggs was dismissed just before the final whistle of normal time. With 9 minutes left, Leverstock were awarded a penalty which Ben Hammond converted, but the decision saw two Crawley Green players dismissed. A brace from Luke Melisi and a Stuart Corbould goal were enough to see **Aylesbury Vale** through 3-1 against **Alton Town**, whilst a dramatic last minute penalty from Ben Stocker gave **Biggleswade United** a narrow 1-0 win over **Saffron Walden Town.**, whilst at the same time sparing Kyle Lincoln's blushes as he had earlier missed a 9th minute penalty. **Oxhey Jets** taxied into the next round with a 3-1 win over United Counties side **Sileby Rangers**. Jamie Arthur put the Jets one up in added on time in the first half, before Paul Turner added a second from the penalty spot, having himself been the recipient of the foul. Another penalty, this time for Sileby, allowed the visitors back in the game, but Nathan Roberts converted an Arthur cross with 5 minutes remaining to ensure the victory. The second all SSMFL tie saw **St. Margaretsbury** eventually romp to a 5-1 win over rivals **Colney Heath**, but they had to wait until the last 10 minutes before three goals ensured a four goal winning margin. League leaders **Langford** went down 2-1 at home to **Cogenhoe United**, whilst **Kingsbury London Tigers**, at home to Raunds Town, also lost by the same scoreline. **London Colney** could not make home advantage pay as they lost 4-0 to **Daventry Town**, whilst **Hanwell Town** went down 4-1 away at **Halstead Town**. **Tokington Manor** might have enjoyed good weather for their trip to sunny FC Clacton, but they did not enjoy a good result, losing 6-2. **Broxbourne Boro** also had a trip to the East coast, but a goal 7 minutes from the end gave the Jam Makers

of **Tiptree United** a 3-2 victory, and **Cranfield United** had no joy whatsoever from their trip to **Wellingborough Town** - the Doughboys running out comfortable 6-0 winners.

PREMIER DIVISION

With the three clubs above them all involved in Cup action, **Biggleswade Town** took full advantage as they went to the top of the table following their 2-1 win away at **Holmer Green**. Although shorn of three out of their top four leading goalscorers, a revamped Waders team took an early lead after excellent work from Liam Folds put the Holmer defence under pressure and forced an own goal from Stuart Walker. Jack Weeden doubled the lead in the 58th minute after his controlled run beat the offside trap, but a battling display from the home side allowed them to reduce the deficit on 70 minutes through Nathan Quantrill. Andy Shed always looked dangerous for the Greens, but the Waders defence, well marshalled by the experienced Liam Folds and Neil Morgan, held firm to collect the three points. **Welwyn Garden City** moved off the bottom, and up 5 places, as they came from behind to beat visitors **Brimsdown Rovers** 3-2. Matt Toms gave rovers the lead half way through the first half before Chris Doyle's penalty just before the break put the Citizens level. Matt Thompson and Doyle were both on target as the home side increased their lead, before Glen Geddes pulled one back for Brimsdown to set up a nail biting last 10 minutes. **Berkhamsted Town** missed the chance to move up to second place, but they were always behind the eight ball as they went down 4-3 away at **Hertford Town**. The Blues went into the half time break two goals ahead, thanks to Joel Maybury and Reece Lyons, but Tony Field reduced the arrears on the hour mark. This was the start of a 20 minute period that saw 5 goals - Kevin Cooper restoring Hertford's two goal lead, Ashley Addison pegging it back, Dave Agnetti scoring Hertford's fourth, and Addison adding his second but the equalizer did not materialize. **Cockfosters** were denied all three points in their home game against **Tring Athletic** when talismatic sub Andy Humphreys once again came to the rescue when he lobbed the Cockfosters keeper in the third minute of added on time. Earlier, the home side had taken the lead when Dave Pigden latched on to long kick from the keeper to lift the ball over onrushing keeper Clark. **Chalfont St. Peter** suffered a touch of Groundhog Day as they went down 3-1 at home to **Harefield United** – the identical score of the corresponding game in the Premier Division Cup 4 days earlier. This time the Saints scored first, through Adam Louth, but the lead did not last long as Liam Hand levelled things up. A brace from Chris Drake early in the second half secured the victory for the Hares.

DIVISION ONE

Bedford Town Reserves remain in top spot following their home 3-1 win against **Arlesey Athletic**, although the victory was only confirmed in the last 11 minutes with goals from Ashley Deveraux (his second) and Callum Lewis. **Kings Langley** triumphed 2-1 in the second v third battle against **Winslow United**. Chris Hill gave Winslow the lead after just half an hour, but the home side hit back in the second half with goals from Lewis Pritchard and Richard Harvey. **Amersham Town** moved up to the dizzy heights of third spot with their hard fought 4-3 win at home to **New Bradwell St. Peter**. Stuart Blackburne and Kevin Chakaudza both helped themselves to a brace as Town reached their highest League position for a few years. **Stony Stratford Town** had a bit of a fright in their home game with **Brache Sparta** as they trailed 1-0 at half time to an Andre Juraszek goal, but goals from Tom Castle, David Coles and Lewis McBride put them back in the driving seat, although a late penalty from Glen Marshall with just 3 minutes remaining nearly scuppered the party. A crowd of 102 at Lowfields to see the game between **Hoddesdon Town** and **Hatfield Town** were

resigning themselves to a 0-0 draw when the game burst into life in the last 5 minutes. The Lilywhites went one up through Nick Newbury but John Neville rescued a point for Hatfield in the last minute. **Buckingham Athletic** remain winless at the foot of the stairs as they went down 4-2 at home to **Bedford FC**. A hat trick from Mark Reeves had helped the visitors to a 4-0 lead just after half time, but Athletic did win the second half with two goals from Steve Norman and Mark O'Dell. **Harpenden Town** moved out of the bottom three with a 4-1 win away at **Amphill Town** – three goals in the last 20 minutes securing the vital win.

DIVISION TWO

The Division's only remaining unbeaten record disappeared as leaders **Wodson Park** were on the end of an unexpected 3-2 reverse at **Bucks Student Union**. Gerald Kelly gave the Students the lead in the 8th minute but Ross Murphy ensured that Wodson went into the Jaffa break on level pegging. The jaffas clearly energized Daddy Moses as he put the Students back in front shortly after the break – a lead they held until 4 minutes to go when Dan McFayden must have thought he saved the day for the leaders but Moses popped up with a minute left to prove he is the Daddy and score the winner. Wodson retain the top spot, but only on goal difference as **The 61 FC** moved smoothly into second place by dint of their 4-0 win away at **Risborough Rangers**. All the goals came in the second half – a brace from Alex Bennett and singles from Klaudio Petoshi and Hayden Wills. **Hadley** leapfrogged over their opponents **AFC Dunstable** to move up a place to third as won 4-0 at home – they appear to have a team of players without Christian or forenames as none are even mentioned on their website! After their excellent win last week, **Markyate** continue to confound the critics by walloping **Bletchley Town** 9-2 at home. There were doubles for Rohan Deroses and Daniel Douglas and singles for Lee Jeffries, Scott Harvey, Aaron Hamilton, Aaron Wilson and Ebon Trenchfield. **Padbury United** held **Caddington** to one apiece until 6 minutes from the end when two late goals saw the home side run out 3-1 winners. Mark Arran scored a brace for **Pitstone & Ivinghoe** but it was not enough to prevent them from going down 3-2 away at **Mursley United**, for whom Martin Shaw, Andre Brown and Joel Oakley were on the scoresheet. **Aston Clinton** defeated **Kent Athletic** at home with a goal in each half from Peter Weirich and Taurean O'Sullivan, whilst **Totternhoe** remain at the foot of the table following their 1-0 defeat away at **Old Bradwell United**.

CHARITY QUIZ EVENING IN AID OF ASTHMA UK (In memory of Carl Couzens)

Referee John Burlison, along with the North Herts Referees' Society; have arranged a Quiz Evening in aid of Asthma UK in memory of the much missed Carl Couzens. It is to be held on Saturday 11th October at The Heathcote School in Stevenage. Starting at 7.45 (ish). Teams consist of up to eight persons. Cost is £7 per head which will include a hot fish/chicken or Veggie & chips supper. It is bring your own drinks (so the bar is cheap!!) – should appeal to Bill Hamilton! There will be numerous prizes, among them 'spot prizes' for which you need no knowledge whatsoever!!! – very useful for a gathering of referees. *Joke, honest!* Tickets can be obtained from John Burlison, 196 Telford Avenue, Stevenage, Herts, SG2 0AU, Telephone 01438 234139. Details are also on the website www.quizzesforcharity.com. Any cheques should be made payable to 'Quizzes for Charity' please. A postal quiz in aid of the same charity is still running and will make in excess of £500 so we hope to make it to four figure number if possible.

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

Bill Scholes Tel No. 01494 713867 Email: billscholes@hotmail.co.uk