

MOLTEN SPORTS
SPARTAN SOUTH MIDLANDS FOOTBALL LEAGUE

NEWSLETTER No. 7
By Bill Scholes

Saturday 27th September 2008

There were five hat trick heroes (including two in the same game) this week, with James Armstrong of Leverstock Green leading the quartet with four goals. Henry Emenike scored all three of Kingsbury's London Tigers goals, whilst in Division Two Danny Gruar and Steve Gray of Hadley and Richard Shittu of Tring Corinthians also scored three each for their respective clubs.

FA CUP sponsored by E.ON – SECOND ROUND QUALIFYING

Aylesbury Vale went into Monday's draw for the 3rd Qualifying Round following their battling performance in gaining a 1-1 draw at home to **Gospport Borough** from the BGB Southern League. The visitors took the lead after 35 minutes when a defensive slip allowed striker Justin Bennett to break through the Vale defence, and with the aid of a deflection, lob the onrushing Eddie Farmer. Vale, however, were not overawed and with Vinnie Iannone and Luke Melisi looking lively up front, were always in with a shout and deserved the equaliser just on the stroke of half time when Melisi beat two Borough defenders before unleashing a tremendous strike which crashed against the bar before bouncing down and crossing the line. The Borough defence was well marshalled by Michael Birmingham (manager at Conference South Bognor Regis last year) and with the trusted left foot of the well travelled Tommy McCormick producing a series of teasing crosses, the away side looked slight favourites in the second half, but the Vale defence held firm, only really being troubled by a crashing drive from sub Nathan Lynch which rattled the crossbar. A draw was a fair result, and the two teams meet again on Tuesday night on the South Coast, with a trip to either Dorchester Town or Newport County as the reward. **Chalfont St. Peter** put up a tremendous performance against Conference South side **Team Bath** before going down 1-0 to a twice taken penalty after 17 minutes. The first kick was saved by Chalfont custodian Mark Oliver but the referee deemed he had moved off his line and ordered a retake, which Marc Canham duly converted. Chalfont piled on the pressure in the second half, Barry Brosnan having a shot deflected for a corner, Terrell Lewis heading over from a Daniel Hughes corner, whilst the same player nearly equalised in added on time when, after beating two defenders, curled his shot onto the bar.

PREMIER DIVISION

Although they lost their unbeaten record during the week, **Kingsbury London Tigers** bounced back in the best possible way, beating **Broxbourne Borough** 3-1a victory that takes them to the top of the table for the first time. Architect of their victory was Henry Emenike who scored all three goals, including a penalty in the first half to put them well on their way, although Boro did pull one back in the second half through a Ryan Wade penalty. Another side to lose their unbeaten record during the week was Langford who lost 4-2 away at **Oxhey Jets**, leaving their hosts as the only team left in the Premier yet to be beaten. After Saturday, that record remains intact, but only just, as they left it very late to before defeating **Holmer Green** 3-2. Although Tim O'Mara got the Jets off to

a flying start, Andy Shed pulled the Greens level on the stroke of half time and Dean Allen put them in front with 14 minutes left on the clock. It was left to Paul Turner to rescue the Jets, and this he did with two goals inside the last four minutes, the first of these a penalty, and although the Jets were reduced to 10 men just before the end, they hung on to preserve their unbeaten record. The shock of losing during the week appeared to have affected **Langford** as they lost for the second time in 4 days – this time 2-0 away to **Harefield United**, for whom Chris Drake and Adam Willis were on the scoresheet. **Leverstock Green** were on cloud 9 after walloping **Holmer Green** 8-0 during the week – Holmer's worst defeat for many a long year – and they continued in the same vein as they put six goals past **Kentish Town** without reply. James Armstrong was the hero with four of these goals and there were two from Ben Hammond and Lachlan Cahill. This win moves Leverstock up to 6th place, keeping them well in touch with the leaders. Another top-three side to lose two games on the bounce were **Biggleswade Town** who, after losing 1-0 to Utd in the local derby in the week, went down 2-1 away at **Colney Heath**. Chris Hewitt gave the Waders the lead early in the second half, but two goals in the last three minutes from Ritchie Howard gave Colney their second win of the week and moved them well up the table. **Biggleswade United** was another side in form and they jumped up five places to 5th with a 1-0 win over **Brimsdown Rovers**, courtesy of a Mishak Cole goal on the hour mark. Brimsdown, who were challenging for promotion last season, are now two points adrift at the foot of the table as **Haringey Borough** moved above them thanks to their 3-2 win at home to **Hertford Town**. Boro went into a 2-0 lead through Fabian Brown and Nurat Karagul before Kevin Kilroy reduced the deficit just before half time. Joel Maybury then brought the scores level, but Brown's second, from the penalty spot, sealed the points for the home side. Once again **Tring Athletic's** talismanic super sub Andy Humphreys came up trumps with another vital late winner as Athletic triumphed 2-1 away at **St. Margaretsbury**. Paul Aldridge had given the visitors the lead after 38 minutes with a thumping header, only for Bury sub Mark Draper to equalize with 8 minutes to go. It has not been a good week for **Berkhamsted Town** as they went down 2-0 at home to **Hanwell Town** - Jason Tucker and Chris Mills getting the important goals. Berko also lost 4-0 in the week away at **Welwyn Garden City**, and as a result they dropped from 5th to 12th place. **Welwyn** gained a very useful point as they drew 3-3 away to **Cockfosters**. Scott McGuinness gave them the lead in the third minute, and David Iwediuno doubled it six minutes later. Cockfosters struck back with a brace from Dave Pigden to make it 2-2, and only 23 minutes had gone! McGuinness again put the Citizens back in front before the break, but Dan O'Connor squared it up again midway through the second half.

DIVISION ONE

Bedford Town Reserves remain in top spot despite losing their unbeaten record at **New Bradwell St. Peter**, where they went down 2-0. They travelled to mid-table New Bradwell expecting to continue their impressive league form, but came unstuck against an eager Peters' side. In an even first half New Bradwell scored on 20 minutes when a free kick, far out on the right wing taken by Lee White, evaded everyone to hit the far post and roll over the goal line. Bedford bounced back and a shot on the turn from Deverell flew over the Bradwell bar. Bedford should have equalised on 42 minutes but Deverell, clean through on goal, had his shot well saved by Kennard in the home goal. The second half saw Bedford fade and they went further behind when a deflected free kick fell to Lee

Coulter who stabbed the ball home from six yards. It was all Bradwell now and the Bedford keeper saved well to keep them out. Bedford made matters worse for themselves when Alan Devereil showed dissent for the second time in the match and was sent off on 62 minutes for two cautions. It could have been much worse but Bradwell missed a couple of great chances and also hit the Bedford post. **Kings Langley** failed to take advantage of the slip up by the leaders as they were held to a 2-2 draw away at **Cranfield United**. The home side went 2-0 up at half time with strikes from Dominic Lawless and Stuart Reynolds, but Kings hit back in the second half -Steve Hitchins reduced the deficit and Alan Hunter scored the equaliser in the very last minute. **Winslow United** moved up to third as they beat **Amptill Town** 3-2 at home. A Steve Garbutt goal gave them a slender one-nil lead at the break, which the visitors Lee Haywood nullified ten minutes into the second half. Luke Fitzmead and an OG put Winslow back in control and, although Michael Munday scored a last minute penalty, it came too late. **Royston Town** are hovering menacingly in fifth place, with games in hand, and they continued their good form with a 4-2 away win at **Bedford FC**. They started like a train going 3-0 up within the first 20 minutes through Luke Robins, Mark Wright and Ryan Lockett, but Mark Reed reduced the deficit just before half time. A second from Mark Wright stretched the Crows lead back to three, although this was again reduced by Reed's second with 10 minutes left. The faithful four spectators at **Brache Sparta** were rewarded with eight goals and a grandstand finish, as visitors **Sun Postal Sports** eventually triumphed 5-3. It was two apiece after 52 minutes and three apiece after 83 minutes, but two goals in less than a minute saw SPS home. League newcomers **Hatfield Town** continued their strong start to the season as they beat promoted **Crawley Green** 4-2, a brace of penalties from Trevor Golder helping them on their way. There were five different names on the scoresheet as **London Colney** disposed of visitors **Buckingham Athletic** by 5-1, a result which leaves Athletic still without a win and rooted to the foot of the table. **Stony Stratford Town** lost their second game on the spin as they went down 1-0 away at **Harpenden Town** – James Ewington scoring the vital goal. **Sport London e Benfica** battered **Hoddesdon Town** in the first half, playing excellent football, but had no goals to show at half time. SLB did take the lead after 55th minutes through a Dinarte Andrade penalty, but the Lilywhites drew level in the 78th minute through Emeka Nwamadi. Hoddesdon were now on top and two goals in the space of 3 minutes (the 83rd and 85th) from Lee Mitchell and Nwamadi again, saw them garner all three points in their 3-1 victory. Just before the end, the game was held up for 30 minutes after a collision between two SLB players saw Richard Correia taken to hospital in an ambulance with a suspected broken hip.

DIVISION TWO

New leaders at the top of the Division as **The 61 FC** sit proudly in top spot following their 5-1 away demolition of **Padbury United**. The home side took the lead after 15 minutes through Aaron Lewis, but this was short lived as Colin Wynne equalised a minute later. No further goals in the first half but The 61 ran riot in the second half with a brace from Hayden Wills and singles from Chris Mapp and Matt Terry. Last weeks leaders **Wodson Park** drop back to third following their second successive 3-2 defeat – this time to **AFC Dunstable**. Ross Morrissey's first half goal for AFC was the only difference between the two sides at the break, but despite a pair from Park's Tyler Hatherly, it was Gareth Sealey's brace that sealed the game. **Hadley** move back up to second following their

goalfest at **Aston Clinton** where they defeated the home side 7-2, thanks largely to a hat trick apiece from Danny Gruar and Steve Gray. Neil Robinson was also on the score sheet, whilst Taurean O'Sullivan and Alan Bambrook replied for the home side. **Markyate's** recent mini-revival received a slight blip as they lost 1-0 away to a late Lawrence Bunker penalty at **Pitstone & Ivinghoe** whilst **Tring Corinthians** had a comfortable 6-1 victory away at bottom club **Totternhoe**. Richard Shittu scored a hat trick for the visitors with Jean Black- Ngogu adding a further two. Lee Herring also scored, as did Stefan Tracey for Totternhoe. **Old Bradwell United**, who kept Markyate company at the foot of the stairs last season, moved up to half way with an excellent 5-1 win away at **Caddington** Bradwell established a four goal lead by Jaffa time, thanks to Daniel Vincent, Ben Dyer, Daniel Broad and Peter Madigan and, although Tayler Barnes pulled one back for Caddington just after the break, Vincent's second goal re-established the four-goal margin. Two first half goals from Robbie Morgan were enough to secure **Risborough Rangers** 2-0 win away at **Kent Athletic**, whilst **Bucks Student Union** produced a thrilling comeback at **Bletchley Town** to share the points in a 3-3 draw. Bletchley went into a three goal lead at half time with goals from P. Jason and a brace from Craig Fraser, but the half time Jaffas did the trick and first Daddy Moses and then Gerald Kelly reduced the deficit and surely fate decreed that a certain Steve McQueen would score the goal that reprised The Great Escape!

POINTS OF LAW

With thanks to Mike Coventry – Referee Assessor

The assessor, at a recent SSMFL Premier Division match was asked two questions, neither directly connected with that particular match.

“A player leaving the field of play (FoP) following an injury has to wait until the match has restarted to come back on, whereas a substitute replacing him can come directly on. Why is that?” Interesting question; “Because that's what the Laws allow” being the blunt answer. There are some specific differences: the named substitute has to be ready to respond to the referee's signal, and has to enter the FoP from the half-way line; the 'recovered' player enters the FoP from anywhere on the touchline or from any boundary line if the ball has gone out of play. The imposed delay was intended to stop players feigning an injury.

The second question was somewhat trickier. “An injured player re-enters the FoP without the referee's consent and kicks away a ball that would otherwise have entered the goal. What action should the referee take and how should the match be restarted?”

A similar question was posed in the 2006/2007 LOAF (Laws of theGame): *A player enters the FoP without receiving a signal from the referee and then deliberately handles the ball. What action does the referee take?* The given answer reads: *The player is cautioned for entering the FoP without permission and play is restarted with a direct free kick or penalty kick to punish the more serious offence. If, in the opinion of the referee, the player is also guilty of unsporting behaviour, by deliberately handling the ball, he is sent off for receiving a second caution in the same match. If, in the opinion of the referee, the player is also guilty of denying a goal or an obvious goal scoring opportunity, the player is sent off.*

The above is not in the new LOAF, but there is a bullet point stating that the offence which denies an opponent an obvious goal-scoring opportunity may be an offence that

incurs a direct free kick or an indirect free kick. Unsporting behaviour, which the interception under discussion clearly is, results in an indirect free kick, and the referee has only to decide if the re-entry and the subsequent action are separate incidents punishable by a second yellow card and hence a sending-off.

Readers are invited to make up their own minds on the probability of the answers detailed above being those the assessor gave at the time!

ALL CHANGE(ING) AT NEW BRADWELL ST PETER

The new pitch-side changing rooms at New Bradwell are nearing completion and it is hoped they will be in action by the end of November. They consist of large home & away dressing rooms, two match officials' rooms, separate physio facilities and a tea room. Disabled facilities will be constructed where the present dressing rooms are located and further concrete pitch-side walkways are being constructed. One of the floodlight pylons will also be relocated to give improved lighting to the pitch. Club Chairman John Haynes said " It is nice to see all the hard work to get the funding is beginning to bear fruit and that the facilities will be greatly improved for players and officials alike" He added " We hope to have all the various improvements completed in the New Year"

YOU CAN'T BEAT A BIT OF HUMOUR

Thanks to Referee Peter Hazel for the following titbit.

In last night's game I screwed up a throw-in, as one does now and again. As the player was about to explain to me nicely how he disagreed with the decision(!) I just turned to him and quipped "at least it was not a Bannister (the assistant at Watford v Reading who gave the phantom goal) moment". He just fell about laughing.

THE LONG ARM OF THE LAW

An incident in the recent game between Hoddesdon Town and Hatfield Town put a new slant on the term "Removed from the dug out!" Apparently, and allegedly, the Assistant Manager of Hatfield Town was involved in a parking dispute with a Traffic Warden outside the ground with the net result that the Boys in Blue turned up shortly after the game had started and escorted him off to the local nick! There were no protests from the Referee. He was returned at the end of the game. Rumour has it that Mr Ewen was quite taken with this procedure and is thinking of utilizing his friends in Blue at future games so watch out Mr

AN APOLOGY

I would like to remind all clubs that, sadly, I do not possess a crystal ball and cannot publish names of goalscorers if they are not recorded in Mr Bean's highly efficient Bulletin. I would like to apologize to Sport London e Benfica for omitting to mention that last week's 3-0 win over North Greenford Utd came in their very first outing in the FA Vase. Belated congratulations to SLB, but the reason it was not mentioned was because I was not aware of it! If you wish to publicise a specific achievement for your club – as it states at the foot of this newsletter – please let me know.

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