

MOLTEN SPORTS
SPARTAN SOUTH MIDLANDS FOOTBALL LEAGUE

NEWSLETTER No.10

By Bill Scholes

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Just the three hat trick heroes this week, neatly spread over each of the three Divisions. In the Premier, it was Cockfosters' Dan O'Connor who single-handedly demolished Biggleswade United, Stuart Reynolds notched three for Cranfield United in Division One, and in Division Two it was Danny Gruar for Hadley.

PREMIER DIVISION

Uneasy is the head that wears the crown, as the leadership of the Premier Division has now changed hands at least 5 times over the last month or so. Last weeks leaders, **Hanwell Town** could only manage a point in their away game at **Leverstock Green**, which was not enough to stop them dropping back to 3rd. An entertaining game at Pancake Lane saw Hanwell take an early lead through Blaise O'Brien, who took advantage of a poor back pass, before Matt Wardle restored parity on 24 minutes. Hanwell started strongly in the second half and regained the lead through Dean Scarlett, before James Armstrong secured the draw with 12 minutes left. **Langford** regained top spot with a 4-2 win away at the Copthall Stadium, but had to do it the hard way after **Kentish Town** went into a two nil lead at half time thanks to Aaron Hutchins and Jonathan Mallinson. It was a different game in the second half as Langford to equalise with two goals in a minute from John Coley and Wes Byrne, and then go on to win the game with further strikes from Rob Groves and Dave Brown. **Harefield United** moved back up into second place as they took all three points in their 3-1 home win against **Aylesbury Vale**. Two early goals from Ben Cowan and Craig Totton set the scene, and Cowan added his second just before the break. Although Gary Williams put through his own net just after the break to reduce the deficit, which was as far as it went. **Colney Heath** are currently on a renaissance and following an excellent week of 3 wins (one in the Cup) in 7 days have moved up into the top half of the table for the first time in two years. Heath have been performing well against sides at the top of the League this season, and recorded an excellent and well deserved win over leaders Hanwell Town on Tuesday night in the Challenge Trophy – a goal in each half from Richie Howard sealing the tie. Howard was again on the scoresheet on Saturday as he notched the winner against **Welwyn Garden City**, after Aaron Clarke had equalised following Matt McArdle's first half goal for the Citizens. Two second half goals from Daniel Flack and Bobby Dance ensured a 2-0 win for **Biggleswade Town** in their away fixture at **Haringey Borough** which maintained their fourth spot with **Kingsbury London Tigers** staying fifth after their 3-1 win at home to **Tring Athletic** Adil Salih and Edson Cata gave Tigers a two goal lead by the half hour mark, before Chris Salmon gave the visitors hope, but a Marco Tagbajumi goal in the second half restored the two-goal advantage. After a stuttering start to their league season, **Chalfont St. Peter** are beginning to gather momentum and they blitzed **Broxbourne Borough** with an emphatic 5-0 win. John Carroll headed the first after 15 minutes and shortly afterwards fellow centre back Ray Walsh rifled in the second. Danny Hughes scored the first of his brace before the half hour mark to leave the Saints to enjoy their Jaffas during the break. Hughes scored his second with an exquisite chip around and over the keeper, and a minute later Terrell Lewis wrapped up the scoring. Sadly, the afternoon's enjoyment was somewhat marred by

some extremely unpleasant language heard emanating from the Broxbourne bench at the end as the manager was dismissed from the dug out. A Ben Butler goal in the 65th minute was enough to give **Berkhamsted Town** all three points in their home game with **Brimsdown Rovers** Relegated Berko are not finding life easy in the SSMFL and remain just below the half way mark, whilst Brimsdown drop back to second from bottom following this reverse. A Dan O'Connor hat-trick took **Cockfosters** to a well deserved win against **Biggleswade United**. Cockfosters led twice in the first half but each time were pegged back within two minutes of taking the lead. - firstly from Meshak Cole and then Sean Murray. O'Connor completed his hat trick to put Cockfosters in front for the third time after 57 minutes and this time they held on for the win that lifts them away from the bottom. Their place at the foot of the stairs has been taken by **Holmer Green** who slipped to their sixth successive league defeat. In spite of taking an early lead through Andy Shed, Holmer eventually succumbed 3-1 away at **St. Margaretsbury**. Brendan Brien's goal ensured that Bury were level by half time, before further strikes from Mitchell Linger and Brien again put the game beyond Holmer's grasp. Pablo Ardiles' first game as the new manager of **Hertford Town** saw the Blues pull back a three-goal, first half deficit to gain a share of the points at **Oxhey Jets**. The Jets built up a head of steam in the first half with an OG and goals from Jamie Arthur and Karl Bull, but Pablo's first half time team talk must have hit the spot as a brace from Owen Beale and one from Kevin Kilroy pulled the Blues back on level terms. The Jets were reduced to 10 men following Arthur's dismissal with just under 10 minutes left, but their overworked defence just held on.

DIVISION ONE

Kings Langley remain at the top of the League following their 2-1 win away at McMullen Park over **Bedford FC**. The home side led for most of the second half through a Jay Fattorusso goal but two goals in the last five minutes from Allan Arthur and Jack Johnson saved the leaders blushes. **Bedford Town Reserves** could only manage a 2-2 draw away against **Sport London e Benfica**, even though the home side had to play just over 70 minutes without a recognised keeper. It all happened in the first 20 minutes or so, with a brace from Saulo Nascimento putting SLB two up inside 14 minutes. Senon Paul reduced the deficit three minutes later, but then the SLB keeper was dismissed for handling outside his area (rewind 3 weeks to Vase game against Eton Manor). Shortly after, SLB had the chance to extend their lead but sub Dinarte Andrade had his penalty saved, and Aaron Piggott completed the scoring for the day with Town's equaliser. **Royston Town** put the memory of the 3-1 defeat to **Stony Stratford Town** earlier on in the season well and truly to bed with a 4-1 away victory. Luke Robins opened the scoring shortly followed by Tom Malins and then Ross Collins found his cross drifting into the net. Luke Robins made it four in the second half with a penalty before Royston defender David Cain fouled the Stony centre forward in the area conceding a penalty which Dan Walker converted for the Blues. **Hatfield Town** moved up a place to fourth as they won 4-2 at home to **Amersham Town**. Jason Beck and Rhys Lawrence put Hatfield two up before Amersham got back on level terms with two quick goals – a penalty from Denzil Davidson and a strike from Danilson Vicente- just before the break. Lawrence added his second just after the break, and Beck scored his second a few minutes before the end. **Winslow United** drop back to fifth place as a result of their 1-1 draw at home to **London Colney** – Chris Hill gave Winslow a half time lead, but a Paul Talbot OG ensured Colney a share of the points. **Hoddesdon Town** made sure that their cross country trip to **Buckingham Athletic** was worthwhile as they returned from the bottom club with a 2-1 victory. With just 15 minutes left and the game scoreless, it seemed as though Athletic would hold on for a valuable point, but two quick goals from Nick Newbury and Colin Metivier broke the deadlock, and although Lee

Churchward swiftly pulled one back, they could not find the equaliser. **Brache Sparta** visited **Cranfield United** on another warm sunny day which saw a feast of goals. In a sometimes scrappy game a Stuart Reynolds hat trick sealed all the points for Cranfield who at one stage were three goals behind. This was a Manager's nightmare as both defences seemed intent to allow the opposing forwards the freedom of the Crawley Road pitch. It was just a question of which defence was the most generous and that dubious honour went to Brache. The visitors roared into a 3-0 lead with goals from Miah, Thomas and Fontenelle before Cranfield woke up to score just before half time with a Martin Webb overhead kick. The second half saw six goals as Cranfield reduced the arrears through Spence only to gift Brache another goal from Bennett on 60 minutes. Two goals in as many minutes from Bellhouse and Reynolds saw Cranfield level on 77 minutes and a soft penalty scored by Reynolds on 82 minutes put the hosts in front for the first time in the match. Whilst Brache never gave up, the only side looking likely to score more was Cranfield and Reynolds completed his hat trick on 89 minutes after some dreadful Brache defending. Thus the watching crowd received excellent value for their £3 entry fee as Cranfield ran out 6-4 winners on the day. **Harpenden Town** have been slowly moving away from the relegation zone and gained another valuable three points in a 2-1 win at home to **Amphill Town**. A brace from James Ewington put them in the driving seat, but Brian Humberstone's late goal for Amphill did set the nerves a jangling. The **New Bradwell St. Peter** and **Arlesey Athletic** game was seemingly headed for a 2-2 draw with just 9 minutes left, but a devastating three goal burst in just 8 minutes from Brendan Quill, Rob Mooney and Greg Tite ensured a 5-2 win and all three points. Robbie O'Dell scored the only goal of the game as **Crawley Green** came back from **Sun Postal Sports** with a 1-0 win.

DIVISION TWO

Having beaten **Tring Corinthians** 3-1 at home, **The 61 FC** might have expected to maintain their position at the top.....but not so. The expunging of MK Wanderers' record meant that the league leaders lost three points, so in fact they stood still. Two early goals from Aaron Lewis, plus an OG gave the Luton side a three goal lead at half time, and although Corry scored a late consolation goal through Chris Guest, there was no way back. The new leaders are **Hadley**, who had not played MK Wanderers and therefore had no points to deduct, who had an emphatic 5-1 win away at **Kent Athletic**, courtesy of a Danny Gruar hat trick, which included a penalty, and strikes from Matt Hudson and Ricky Burrows. Another hat trick merchant was Bernie Christie who contributed one half of **Caddington's** 6-0 home win over luckless **Bletchley Town**. The other three goals came from Ray Massey, Courtney Massey and Taylor Barnes. Although not in action, Wodson Park remain in third place, but **AFC Dunstable's** 3-0 win over **Pitstone & Ivinghoe** enabled them to leapfrog over Tring and up into fourth. Michael Lord scored two, including a penalty for Dunstable, and Ross Morrissey contributed a third. Just like Wayne Rooney, Daddy Moses is on a hot scoring streak at the moment and notched another two as **Bucks Student Union** had a comfortable 4-0 win away at **Aston Clinton**. Daniel Garrod and an OG completed the scoring. **Totternhoe** gained only their second point of the season as they drew 2-2 away at sixth placed **Markyate**. All the goals came in the second half – Aaron Wilson putting Markyate ahead just after the break, Stefan Tracey's brace for the away side put them in front, and finally Rohan Deroses 77th minute equaliser denied Totternhoe their first victory. A goal apiece from Robbie Morgan and Neil King gave **Risborough Rangers** a 2-1 win away at **Padbury United**, for whom Dominic Lawless scored a late consolation, and **Old Bradwell United** and **Mursley United** shared the spoils in a 1-1 draw. Steve Mooney gave Mursley the lead with an 18th minute penalty, but Daniel Vincent grabbed a late equaliser for Bradwell.

A REAL LABOUR OF LOVE

The following article, by Stuart Hammond, appeared in this week's Non League Paper "Chalfont St Peter programme editor Stuart Latham returned this week from a month working in the south of France. Nothing unusual in that you may think, until you discover that with no-one willing to take on the duties in his absence, Stuart produced NINE programmes in the three weeks before leaving to cover home games while he was in Toulouse. He spent a whole day putting the sheets together and stapling the issues – each with 46 pages of different, informative content. The publication I saw was for the FA Vase first round tie. When Stuart compiled it, he didn't know if Chalfont would be playing Andover New Street, Newport Pagnell or Totton & Eling, so he opened his notes with an apology for the lack of a team sheet. There was no need for him to say sorry. We should be thanking people like Stuart for keeping the grass-roots game great."

JOHN BOODEN – A SAD LOSS FOR NEW BRADWELL ST. PETER FC

It is with great sadness that New Bradwell St Peter FC has to advise that Club President, John Booden passed away on 15th October 2008. John was the predominant figure of New Bradwell St Peter FC and his focus, inspiration and hard work over decades has seen the club develop to its current high standing in the Spartan South Midlands League. He was wholeheartedly committed to the "Peters" and New Bradwell Sports Association and respected throughout the area for all his endeavours. The Club send their condolences to his wife Janet, their three children Lindsay, Scott and Kerry, along with their respective families. He will be sadly missed at the Rec and throughout the community. A minute's silence was held before the home fixture on Saturday.

The funeral will be held at St. James Church, New Bradwell @ 10.30am on Tuesday 28th October 2008 and afterwards at the football club.

SPURS LEGENDS AT WODSON PARK FUND RAISER

Wodson Park is holding a fund raising event on Friday 31st October. They have two Spurs Legends (Ralph Coates and Phil Beal) doing an evening with and then a question and answer session, followed by an auction of signed Spurs memorabilia. No doubt they will get a few questions on the current state of affairs at White Hart Lane! The event starts at 7.30 pm and is at Wodson Park Sports Centre, Wadesmill Road, Ware. Tickets are priced at £10 and are available from Paul Coates – 07876 528886 or email at paulj.coates@virgin.net

200 UP FOR JON MONIATIS

Scoring at Langford two weeks ago was a personal milestone for Cockfosters' Jon Moniatas as he brought his goal-scoring tally to 200 senior goals for the Club. Jon made his senior debut in August 1996 for the 'B' team. Since then 'Monnie' has made 256 league appearances and 86 cup games - a very impressive record. Well done Jon...

Quote - Unquote: "Thank God the referee and his linesmen are all out there together, otherwise they could have ruined three matches instead of one" - Tommy Docherty, working as a radio pundit at Old Trafford in 1992.

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

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