

MOLTEN SPORTS SPARTAN SOUTH MIDLANDS FOOTBALL LEAGUE

NEWSLETTER No. 12

By **Bill Scholes**

There were just three hat tricks this week. In Division Two, Richard Shittu scored three for Tring Corinthians, whilst Jason Caswell, with four goals, and Terry Caswell were on the mark for Hatfield Town in the Herts Centenary Trophy.

Saturday 1st November 2008

LEAGUE CHALLENGE TROPHY – SECOND ROUND

Lightning really does strike twice as **The 61 FC** defeated their second Premier Division side in the Challenge Trophy. First it was Harefield Utd and last Saturday it was **Hertford Town's** turn to be on the receiving end of another 3-1 defeat. This was The 61 FC's 12th win on the bounce, an excellent achievement particularly bearing in mind that it included two Premier Division scalps. The Luton side started well and in the early exchanges any neutral spectators would have been hard pressed to pick out the Premier side from the Division Two side, and the first two goals, coming in quick succession, probably decided the outcome of the tie. The first, after 21 minutes, came from the penalty spot, and was stroked home by Aaron Lewis, whilst the second almost immediately afterwards came from a poor goalkeeping clearance which was superbly volleyed home from well outside the box by a jubilant Matt Terry. These two goals appeared to knock the stuffing out of Hertford and with their previously lethal strike force having departed for pastures greener and whiter; they offered little real danger up front. Hertford were offered a lifeline halfway through the second half when they were awarded a penalty, but it was well saved by the 61 FC 'keeper. The Luton side continued to perform as a tight unit, but with 9 minutes left Hertford did finally breach the Blues defence with a well drilled shot into the bottom corner from Jamie Abbot. The spectators braced themselves for 9 minutes of Return to the Alamo, but instead the 61 FC skipper Ricky Clarke rose to power a bullet header into the net from a right wing corner to restore the two goal cushion, and thwart any ideas of a Hertford come back. To complete The 61 FC's day, they were presented with two Awards prior to the game. The first was a Molten Match Ball and inscribed plaque, presented by League Management Committee member Bill Scholes for winning Team of the Month, and the second was a shield for winning the Beds FA Summer League which was presented by Keith Swain, Chairman of the Beds FA Development Committee. Mr Everitt was even seen to be wearing a glimmer of a smile on more than one occasion, and rightly so – his club certainly did Division Two, and the League as a whole, proud – excellent hospitality and an excellent programme.

PREMIER DIVISION

No change as at the top as **Harefield United** remain top dogs following their 4-0 home win over **Broxbourne Borough**. The scoreline was somewhat flattering however, as three of the goals came in the last 5 minutes. The Hares led with a goal from Chris Drake after 55 minutes, but had to wait until just before the end before they could relax. Luke Lloyd got the second with just 4 minutes left on the clock, and the last two came bang on time, from Ben Cowen, whilst Drake added his second in the first minute of added on time. Harefield have a three point lead over **Biggleswade Town**, who followed up their 3-0 win over near neighbours and challengers Langford, with a 2-1 win away at **Chalfont St. Peter** to make it 5 league wins on

the trot. They did however have to wait until the last minute before Kevin Cooper headed the winner. Adam Louth had given the Saints the lead after half hour, but Ryan Redford equalised on 66 minutes before Cooper's late winner. Another side with 5 straight league wins under their belt are **Colney Heath**, who have made terrific strides in the last couple of weeks, moving up from 11th to 7th to 4th. Their latest victory was a 3-1 win at home against **Tring Athletic**. Heath had to come from behind as Andy Humphreys volleyed Athletic into the lead after just 6 minutes, but Carl Ashton levelled just after the half hour mark. Aaron Clark then put Heath into the lead 10 minutes after the break, squeezing the ball in at the far post, and Barry Dowling made sure of the points with a shot into the far corner ten minutes later. In the 80th minute a volley by Athletic's Chris Salmon was heading into the net but midfielder Greg Deacon made a superb save – penalty and a straight red card. Andy Mullins' spot kick was however saved by keeper Tom Blackman. **Langford** recovered from their midweek defeat by beating **Brimdson Rovers** 3-1 at home, with two goals from Joe Delaselle and one from Wes Byrne. Rovers reply came from Dave Edmee. This defeat consigned Rovers to the foot of the stairs, as **Holmer Green** secured a valuable point in their 1-1 draw away at **Haringey Borough** to move above Rovers. Holmer could not have got off to a worse start as Fabian Brown lashed the ball into the Greens net after just 30 seconds, but Andy Shed scored a deserved equaliser after 28 minutes. **Leverstock Green** had a convincing 5-0 home win over **Cockfosters**, with first half goals from Dan Griggs, James Armstrong and Ben Hammond and a second half brace from Matt Wardle. It was a real nip and tuck affair at **Oxhey Jets**, with their game against **Kentish Town** seesawing first one way and the other, before the Jets eventually emerged as 4-3 winners. Wayne Gladdy got the Jets off to a flyer, and it was a lead that they held until the start of the second half. Daniele Quattromini equalised for the Town, but 7 minutes later Paul Turner put Jets back in front. It was a lead they only held for 5 minutes, before Paul Butler scored from the penalty spot. There was then a 15 minute lull, before Town took the lead for the first time through Karim Essiaghi, only for Lee Grace to square things up again two minutes later, before Jamie Arthur scored the winner with 8 minutes left. **Aylesbury Vale's** league fortunes had been dipping of late, but two wins on the trot has seen them move up 6 places to 11th. Vale triumphed 3-1 over visitors' **Biggleswade United** on Saturday, but were another side that pulled back a deficit, going behind to a James Slack goal after 56 minutes. They left it late, but Stuart Corbould equalised on 78 minutes, and two goals in the last 4 minutes, from Daniel Wright and Aaron Usmani clinched the win. The match between **St. Margaretsbury** and **Welwyn Garden City** was postponed as Welwyn were unable to raise a side.

DIVISION ONE

Leaders **Kings Langley** entertained visitors **Brache Sparta** in more typical football weather of wind, rain and cold. However, the Kings Langley performance warmed the home supporters. When the most porous defence in the division meets the league leaders, there is only one outcome and so it proved as Brache were overwhelmed. The first half started brightly and Brache had most of the early play but a breakaway saw Langley ahead when Simon Conway ran through to score on 11 minutes. More goals followed at regular intervals for the home team as Conway scored again on 15 minutes, Craig Preston on 39 minutes and Jack Johnson on 41 minutes. Brache pulled a goal back on 43 minutes with a tremendous volley from Mark Brown, Indeed they could have scored again but the ball was headed over the bar when it seemed easier to score. The second half was more of the same for Kings Langley as they rattled in a further five goals – another from Jack Johnson, two from Alan Arthur, one from Richard Felgate and a great 25 yard drive from Richard Harvey. Brache had no answer at all and made the mountain harder to climb when they were reduced to ten men on 51 minutes when their captain was sent

off for violent conduct. The 9-1 win extended Kings Langley's lead at the top of the table to four points and to end a successful day, they were presented with the Team of the Month award for September by League Management Committee member Bob Flight. **Bedford Town Reserves** could only manage a point in their 0-0 draw at home to **Amphill Town**, but this did enable them to move above Royston Town (involved in cup action) into second place. Hatfield Town (also in cup action) slipped back to fifth place as **Winslow United** took advantage and leapfrogged over them as they entertained **Hoddesdon Town** and ended the Lilywhites 6 match unbeaten league run with a 2-1 win. Steve Garbutt's early goal gave Winslow the lead which they held until the 80th minute when a Colin Metivier header got the Lilywhites back in the game. The winner, scored by Chris Hill, came from the penalty spot with just two minutes left on the clock. **New Bradwell St. Peter** took advantage of Hoddesdon's loss to move above them into 6th place, although they needed an OG to secure their 1-0 win away at **Cranfield United**. Near neighbours **Stony Stratford Town** also had 1-0 win courtesy of Lewis McBride, this time at home to **Amersham Town**. **Sport London e Benfica**, possibly with one eye on their upcoming FA Vase game, went down 3-0 at home to **Harpenden Town**, for whom Chris Gregory, James Ewington and Paul Doonan were on the score sheet. **Tokington Manor** moved up a couple of places following their 3-2 win away at **Bedford FC**. The home side took a fourth minute lead through Travis Joseph, but three goals inside 26 minutes – a brace from Dan Owen and a single from Jesse Reynolds - put the Manor three one up by half time. Jason Layne reduced the deficit with 20 minutes left, but Bedford just couldn't find the equaliser. **Crawley Green** and **Arlesey Athletic** shared four goals, and the points, between them as they drew 2-2 – an OG and Tom Peverall were responsible for the Crawley goals, whilst Dave Kiddie and Terry Lock were on target for Athletic.

DIVISION TWO

Just the four league games, due primarily to the Second round Cup ties. The 61 FC hang on to top spot...just, as **Wodson Park's** 5-1 win away at **Totternhoe** has brought them level on points, although they have played two more games. Ally Waldron and Scott Brunton both scored a brace and there was also an OG, before Gary Simpson replied for Totternhoe. **Hadley** drop back to third, having rather surprisingly gone down 3-1 away to **Padbury United**. Hadley did score first - after just 4 minutes, but three goals from Dominic Lawless, Mick Hughes, and Gary Wilmot before half time sealed their fate. There was a real goal fest at **Tring Corinthians** where the home side triumphed 5-3 over visitors **Kent Athletic**. Tring were indebted to Richard Shittu for his hat trick, but there were also goals from Jean Black-Ngodi and Lee Herring. Kent's scorers were Lee Redmond and Lee Scott, with the Corries manager's brother contributing an OG. **Bletchley Town** are still searching for their first win, but they did pick up a point in a 2-2 draw at home to **Old Bradwell United**. Bletchley scored two quick goals through Jermaine Casey and Craig Fraser just after the half hour mark, but Bradwell fought back with strikes from Ben Mills and Sam O'Neil.

DIVISION TWO CUP – SECOND ROUND

There were goals galore at **Pitstone & Ivinghoe** as visitors **Caddington** narrowly edged a nine goal thriller. All of Pitstone's four goals came in the first half – two from Lawrence Bunker and one apiece from Stewart Allen and Mitch Hamilton- as against three from Caddington –Chris Hemmings, Danny Swan and Ray Massey being their scorers. Caddington turned the game around in the second half with two goals from Courtney Massey and Darren Edwards to run out 5-4 winners. Two ties needed extra time, and one went on to the dreaded penalty shoot out. **Markyate** and **AFC Dunstable** were locked at 1-1 after normal time –Felix Kyeremeh giving Dunstable the lead but Rohan Deroses forcing extra time with his equaliser, but a goal in each

period of extra time, from James Baldry and Rob Bannister, saw Dunstable through. Another game that finished 1-1 after the normal ninety minutes was at **Aston Clinton** where **Bucks Student Union** were the visitors. Aston Goss put the home side ahead and Daddy Moses brought the Students level. Two quick goals in the first period of extra time saw Goss's second and Moses' second, and with no further scoring it went to penalties, which the Students won 5-2 (more time to practice between lectures!) and so progress to the next round. Joining them will be last season's beaten finalists **Mursley United**, who defeated **Risborough Rangers** 1-0 thanks to a solitary strike from Andre Brown.

HERTS SENIOR CENTENARY TROPHY

Hatfield Town ran riot at **Bedmond Sports & Social** winning 11-0, including two hat tricks – one from Jason Caswell who actually scored four, and one from Terry Caswell. Our other three entries went out to Herts County League teams – **Royston Town** losing 2-0 at **Bovingdon**, **London Colney** losing 2-1 at home to **Codicote**, and **Sun Postal Sports** suffering the heartbreak of losing on penalties after drawing 3-3 with **Park Street Village** at the end of extra time.

LONDON INTERMEDIATE CUP – FIRST ROUND

After conceding a goal inside three minutes **Cockfosters Reserves** battled their way back into their tie with **Old Roan** and levelled in the second half through Kieron Bishop to force the extra period. Extra time goals from Jamie Brandon and Sam Lapite secured Cockfosters passage to Round Two.

HERTS INTERMEDIATE CUP – FIRST ROUND

Apologies for omitting **Hoddesdon Town Reserves** from the list of winning Reserve teams in last weeks round up. They beat **Colney Heath Reserves** on 8-7 penalties, after the scores were level at 1-1. In goal for the Lilywhites was a 16 year old, who saved one of the penalties.

THE WEATHER

If you are wondering why there is no mention of the weather in particular games, it's because the weather was b****y awful everywhere. Games with early kick offs probably missed the worst of the rain, but for the rest it was **WET, WET, WET**.

NO AGEISM HERE!

At the other end of the age spectrum, **Leverstock Green** signed the well travelled 57 year old Gary Harthill, who recently played in their Reserves along side his son!

NEW FIRST TEAM MANAGER AT COCKFOSTERS

Cockfosters have reluctantly accepted the resignation of Manager David Craig. David was instrumental in the Club obtaining its Premier Division status but in recent months has become increasingly disillusioned and felt it appropriate to offer his resignation. The Club would like to place on record its appreciation of Dave and Mark Standen's achievement and commitment and wish them well in the future. Taking over the reins is Neil Ewing, who will be assisted by his present Reserve Team assistant, Ron Syrett. Neil and Ron's first game at the helm will be the London Senior Cup tie against Colliers Wood United on Wednesday evening.

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

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