

MOLTEN SPORTS
SPARTAN SOUTH MIDLANDS FOOTBALL LEAGUE

NEWSLETTER No.13
By Bill Scholes

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Only two hat trick heroes this week, but they did score 9 goals between them. Lawrence Bunker rattled in 5 for Pitstone & Ivinghoe, whilst Dominic Lawless managed just the 4 for Padbury United!

PREMIER DIVISION

Once again there is no change at the top as the top 5 retain the status quo. Leaders **Harefield United** are still three points clear following their 2-1 win at home to **St. Margaretsbury**, although there were some last minute concerns. Leading one nil for most of the game through a Chris Drake goal, they must have thought the 3 points were safe. However, two minutes into added on time the Bury equalised through John Barker – three points down to one, but three further added on minutes and one point was back to three as Paul Haynes scored the winner. Second placed **Biggleswade Town** extended their unbeaten run to 8 games as they repeated their earlier FA Vase victory over visitors **Berkhamsted Town**, but this time the score was 5-2. Two goals in three minutes got the Waders off to a great start – one an OG and one from Kevin Cooper and not long after two became four as both Ryan Redford and Jack Weeden hit the back of the net. Grant Saunders got Berko off the mark shortly afterwards and Daniel Flack added to the Waders tally with 12 minutes left before Ashley Addison's late consolation for the visitors. **Langford** relied on a late Joe Delaselle goal for their 2-1 win away at **Cockfosters**, having seen Dave Brown's goal in the 24th minute neutralised by Dan O'Connor's equaliser three minutes later. A goal after just three minutes from Aaron Clark ensured all three points for **Colney Heath** on their trip up the A1 to **Biggleswade United** – this was Heath's 6th successive league victory – and keeps them in fourth place and the smile on Chairman Martin Marlborough's face. Just one point behind are **Hanwell Town** who had a 1-0 win at home over **Holmer Green** – Matt Kidson getting the vital goal in the 59th minute. This defeat, coupled with **Brimsdown Rovers** 2-0 over **Hertford Town**, means that Holmer drop back to the foot of the stairs. The Rovers win – their goals coming from a Glen Draper OG and a strike from Hilaire Tchongouang – also lifted them above Cockfosters who now drop into the bottom two. A much changed **Welwyn Garden City** side struggled for long periods at home to **Chalfont St. Peter** who were looking to record their first win for 5 games. The new management team had certainly rung the changes and the locals were hard pressed to recognize any of their team. One fairly recognizable figure was the much travelled Junior Lewis, who can claim Fulham, Dover, Hendon, Gillingham, Leicester City, Brighton, Swindon, Hull, Brentford, MK Dons and Stevenage Borough amongst his many previous clubs – he is currently employed as First Team coach at Wycombe Wanderers. One of three Blackburnes in the Welwyn side had to go off with a head injury after 25 minutes and he was replaced by Craig Tompkins, returning to the fold

at Hern Lane. The first half saw few chances, the best of which fell to Chalfont's Danny Hughes who struck the post with a long range effort, the ball rebounding off keeper Rob Blackburne's head in the home goal and scrambled away for a corner. Blackburne also kept out Terrell Lewis just before half time, with the rebound being blocked. The second period saw the visitors take a deserved lead, albeit in slightly fortuitous circumstances, when Adam Bunce scored directly with an in-swinging free kick from around forty yards. This stung the hosts into action, and a sustained spell of pressure eventually paid off six minutes from the end when keeper Blackburne launched a free kick from the halfway line which was only cleared out as far as Mark Blackburne who netted with a rasping drive from thirty yards, leaving Chalfont custodian Michael Power-Simpson with no chance. In the end a 1-1 draw was probably a fair result. A goal apiece from Matt Mitchell and Robert Tungat saw **Broxbourne Borough** to a 2-0 home win over **Aylesbury Vale**, whilst **Kingsbury London Tigers** triumphed by the same scoreline in their home game against **Haringey Borough** – a goal in each half from Kye Davis and Edson Cata doing the damage. **Tring Athletic** and **Oxhey Jets** fought out a 1-1 draw at the Grass Roots Stadium – Graham Hall heading Athletic into the lead in the first half from a free kick which directly resulted in Jets Ian Bywater being shown a red card. Jets 10 men weathered the early Tring pressure in the second half before Chris Ingham came up with the equaliser with 10 minutes remaining.

DIVISION ONE

With two big wins in the last 5 days, **Royston Town** now sit proudly on top of the pile – albeit only on goal difference. They do however have games in hand on all of their nearest challengers. On Tuesday night the Crows walloped **Sun Postal Sports** 6-0 and they made it 8 league victories on the bounce as they followed that up with an emphatic 5-0 win at home to **Sport London e Benfica**. Captain for the day Craig Hammond set the ball rolling four minutes in followed by a David Cain goal and then two strikes from winger Luke Robins sending the Crows in 4-0 at half time. The second half wasn't much of a spectacle, but Royston completed the job when Hammond converted a penalty in the 90th minute for his second. **Kings Langley** stay in second place, but they lost their first league game of the season on Tuesday night to **Hatfield Town**, and could only manage a 1-1 draw away at **London Colney**. Dean Barker opened the scoring for Colney, and Lewis Pritchard equalised for the Kings. **Hatfield Town** followed up their midweek win with another on Saturday as they beat **Harpenden Town** 3-1 away and move up to 3rd place. Harpenden took an early lead through James Ewington, but a double strike before half time from Jason Caswell put Hatfield in front, and Gary Corley completed the scoring in the second half. Early front runners **Bedford Town Reserves** have slipped back to 4th as their game away at **Tokington Manor** fell foul of the weather. **Buckingham Athletic** recorded their second league win of the season in midweek, beating **Cranfield United** to move off the bottom of the table. They are replaced by **Brache Sparta** who, despite scoring three times at home to **Arlesey Athletic** ended up losing an end-to-end game 5-3. Kevin Lambert started the ball rolling for Arlesey after just 9 minutes, but Adrian Fontenelle squared it up six minutes later. Lambert's second restored Athletic's lead but back came Brache to equalise through Nash Bennett just before half time. Twenty minutes into the second half, James Kiddie put Athletic back in front again, only for Jason Thomas to pull Brache back

level with ten minutes left. Arlesey sealed their win with two late goals from Terry Lock and Kieron Dempsey. Three goals from Robert Goodman, Jay Fattorusso and Travis Joseph saw **Bedford FC** to a 3-1 away at **Amphill Town**, for whom Anthony Wright was on the score sheet. **Cranfield United** bounced back from their midweek defeat at Buckingham Athletic by beating **Sun Postal Sports** 3-2 at their Watford home. Two Stuart Reynolds penalties gave Cranfield a 2-1 lead at half time – Bertie Squires-Adams scoring for Sun Postal – before Ellis Spence added to the lead in the second half. Keith Mahon notched a late consolation for Sun. In a league programme cut short by clubs involvement in the B&B Intermediate Cup, the day's only other game saw **Hoddesdon Town** and **Crawley Green** grind out a 0-0 draw.

DIVISION TWO

There were goals galore in this division as three out of the four games played racked up goals a piece! **Wodson Park** is the new leaders as they took advantage of The 61 FC's cup action with a 1-0 home win against **Markyate**. However the issue was in doubt right up to the very end and it took a 90th minute goal from Tyler Hatherly to seal all three points. Wodson Park is now three points clear, but they have played 3 more games than their Luton challengers. With Hadley also involved in cup action, **AFC Dunstable** moved back up to third following their 7-1 demolition of **Aston Clinton**. There were doubles from Felix Kyeremeh and Gareth Seeley as well as singles from Rob Bannister, Ross Morrissey and Tom Lawlor, whilst the visitor's sole reply came from Taurean O'Sullivan. Lawrence Bunker FC -sorry, **Pitstone & Ivinghoe FC**; demolished **Totternhoe** 6-2 with the aforementioned player notching 5 of the goals, including a penalty. Ashley Higgins managed to squeeze onto the score sheet as well, whilst Ikeme Ojulah and Phil Caves replied for Totternhoe. The other high scoring game saw **Kent Athletic** make the short trip to **Caddington** and come back with a 5-3 victory under their belts. Stuart Childs and Pat O'Neil both scored doubles for Kent with the other goal coming from Lee Redmond, whilst Courtney Massey, Bernie Christie and Ray Massey were on target for the home side.

DIVISION TWO CUP – SECOND ROUND

It was unlucky 13 for **The 61 FC** as they saw their long unbeaten run come to an end with a 2-1 home defeat in their tie with **Hadley**. The visitors went two goals up through a Danny Gruar penalty in the first half and a Sumran Kaul strike just after half time, and although Aaron Lewis reduced the deficit ten minutes later the home side could not find the elusive second goal to take the game into extra time. **Tring Corinthians** appeared to make heavy weather of defeating bottom club **Bletchley Town**, but they eventually moved into the third round with a 2-1 win, thanks to goals from Luke Byrne and Richard Shittu. Pete Gayton replied for Bletchley.

BERKS & BUCKS INTERMEDIATE CUP – SECOND ROUND

Twelve SSMFL clubs were represented in the Second Round of this competition. Two games were postponed, but 6 clubs have won their way through to the Third Round.

Padbury United had a fairly comprehensive 9-0 win over **MK Titans**, helped by 4 goals from Dominic Lawless, whilst **Bucks Student Union** enjoyed an exciting game against **FC Beaconsfield**, just edging home 5-4, thankful for doubles from Steve McQueen and Sam Hooke. **Stony Stratford Town** left it late before overcoming old rivals **Olney Town** with three goals in the last 15 minutes, whilst **Mursley United** beat **Grendon Rangers** 3-1 and **Buckingham Athletic**, helped by two penalties from David Odell, just managed to pip **Old Bradwell United 2-1** – Bradwell's goal also coming from the penalty spot courtesy of Pete Cooper. Despite opening the scoring through Liam Fowler, **Amersham Town** went down 2-1 to **Wraysbury** – now in the new Surrey Elite Intermediate League, whilst the two Reserve teams in the competition both lost – **Aylesbury Vale Res** going down 3-0 away at **New Bradwell St. Peter** and **Holmer Green Res** losing 3-1 away at **Wycombe Judo**.

NEW MANAGEMENT TEAM AT WELWYN GARDEN CITY

The ex-Leyton FC and Edgware Town FC management team of **Del Deanus** and **Steve Newing** are back in the SSMFL at Welwyn Garden City. The Citizens manager Paul Tompkins resigned last Saturday after Welwyn failed to raise a team for their trip to St. Margaretsbury, and Welwyn moved swiftly to appoint the successful duo who had just resigned their posts at Leyton. Terry Gilmore is expected to be very busy processing a large number of new player registrations!

F.A. VASE - THIRD ROUND PROPER

Finally, good luck to all our 7 teams playing in the FA Vase this weekend. We are certain of at least Club through to the Fourth Round as Kentish Town are at home to Biggleswade Town. Unusually, our 5 clubs are all at home, so if you are not directly involved with a club, do try and lend your support at one of these 6 grounds - the clubs will definitely appreciate it. The games are:-

Aylesbury Vale v East Grinstead Town, Biggleswade Utd v Stanway Rovers, Chalfont St. Peter v Clanfield 85, Harefield Utd v Barkingside, Kentish Town v Biggleswade Town and Sport London e Benfica v St. Neots Town

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

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