

MOLTEN SPORTS
SPARTAN SOUTH MIDLANDS FOOTBALL LEAGUE

NEWSLETTER No.14

By Bill Scholes

Saturday 15th November 2008

There were 5 hat trick heroes this week, spread around the divisions. Heading the list is Daddy Moses of Bucks Students Union who scored 4 of his team's five goals, whilst Dave Hunt scored all three of Hertford Town's goals. Craig Hammond hit a second half hat trick for Royston Town, and Matt Hudson and Danny Gruar both scored three for Hadley.

FA Carlsberg VASE – SECOND ROUND

Seven SSMFL clubs started the day in the Second Round of this Competition and four will go forward into the Third Round. **Chalfont St. Peter** started as clear favourites over Hellenic League Div West side **Clanfield 85**, but was made to work hard for their eventual 2-0 victory. Chalfont started brightly and their pacy and skilful forwards soon put the Clanfield defence under pressure. A cross from Terrell Lewis saw Adam Louth's shot well saved by keeper Chris Brain – the first of many excellent saves from the Clanfield custodian who certainly played his part in keeping the Saints at bay. Brain was finally beaten a minute before half time when debutant forward Remmell Clarke volleyed home following some excellent build up play from Lewis, Togwell and Hedley. Clanfield did not let this reverse upset them and they certainly matched their hosts for endeavour in the second half - both Dan Bishop and Sean McKeon had chances which they failed to convert – but they lacked the quality of the Chalfont side, particularly up front and this was evident when Terrell Lewis put the issue beyond doubt with a fierce drive from just inside the penalty area after 73 minutes. This was Chalfont's first win in 5 games. Full marks to **Kentish Town** who worked tirelessly before the game to ensure that their tie with **Biggleswade Town** went ahead, but 120 minutes later they may well have wished that they hadn't as they went down 6-2 aet. Kevin Cooper gave the Waders an early lead which they held until half time. Kentish had more possession in the second half and 16 minutes from the end, a quick-fire brace from Jonathan Donoghue turned the game on its head. However with just 5 minutes left, Jack Weeden came up with the equaliser sending the game into extra time. Having escaped once, the Waders were not to be denied and two goals in each period of extra time (Weeden again and Mark Webster in the first and Adam Lamperast and Adam Bensaud in the second) saw the visitors safely through to the next round. **Biggleswade United** will not be joining them unfortunately as they went down 3-0 to **Stanway Rovers** – two penalties from Sam Newson helping the Eastern Counties side to victory. Also bowing out of the Competition were Division One's sole representative **Sport London e Benfica**, who after an excellent run in their debut season in the Vase, went down 5-0 at home to **St. Neots Town**. In front of a crowd of 154, and with less than 10 minutes left, SLB were only two goals down, but three late goals – one from ex Biggleswade Town striker Jamie Steele – from the United Counties side sealed their fate. **Aylesbury Vale** recaptured their cup form with a convincing 4-0 home win against Sussex league side **East Grinstead Town**. Vale was quickly a goal up after just three minutes from Martin Kinsey, and Neil Roberts doubled the lead from the penalty spot just before half time. Daniel Wright added the third on 71 minutes and Aaron Usmani's goal in the

last minute was the icing on the cake. **Harefield United** were making their first appearance in the Vase this season, having received exemption for their exploits last year, and duly progressed to the next round with a 2-1 win over **Barkingside** from the Essex Senior League. The Hares took the lead after 14 minutes when Danny Buckle scored from the penalty spot following a push by defender Harry Stevens, but Anthony Jones brought Barkingside back in the game with just 30 minutes played. Harefield began to dominate the second half and their opponents were indebted to keeper Paul Daley for keeping them in the game. The large crowd of 188 had to wait until the last twenty minutes before Luke Lloyd finally defeated Daley to secure the Hares victory

Third Round Draw (Saturday 6th December): Biggleswade Town v Wivenhoe Town, Selsey v Chalfont S. Peter, Leiston v Aylesbury Vale, Harefield United v Lowestoft Town

Interesting draw for our four remaining clubs – Lowestoft Town, Wivenhoe Town and Leiston are all in the top 5 of the Premier Division of the Eastern Counties League., whilst Selsey ply their trade in the Sussex County League. We wish all our clubs, the very best of luck.

PREMIER DIVISION

With both of the top two involved in Vase action, **Langford** took the opportunity to move up into second place with a fairly comprehensive 5-1 win away at **Berkhamsted Town**. Joe Delasalle gave the visitors an early lead, but the Berko skipper Tony Field pulled them level on the half hour mark, and that's how it stayed until the last 20 minutes when the floodgates opened and John Corley, Lee Pateman, twice, and Rob Groves completed the scoring. **Colney Heath** dropped out of the top four as their run of six consecutive victories came to an end with their 3-2 defeat at home to **Cockfosters**. Dave Pigden gave Cockfosters an early lead that was cancelled out by a few minutes later by Neil Jordan before a stunning drive from Joe Smith took Cockfosters to a half-time 2-1 lead. Aaron Ewing stretched the lead before a hotly contested penalty allowed the Heath back into the game. Keeper Dan Curbelo saved the spot kick but from the resultant corner Phil Jackman headed home - handbags swung, Heath went down to 10 men and a thrilling finish ensued! **Tring Athletic** fell to their heaviest defeat of the season as they went down 5-0 at home to **Broxbourne Borough**, whose keeper Obey Murefu provided the platform for their win with three outstanding saves in the first half to ensure they reached half time with a two nil lead thanks to Michael Nathan and Ryan Wade. Wade doubled his money a few minutes after the break, and two late goals from Tony Burke only added to Tring's misery. **Kingsbury London Tigers** moved up two places to fourth after their 4-0 win away at **St. Margaretsbury**. All the goals came in the first half – a brace from Marco Tugbasumi and singles from Renars Zarchenko and Edson Cata. The new management team at **Welwyn Garden City** secured their first win as the Citizens defeated **Oxhey Jets** 3-0 in a bad tempered game at the Boundary Stadium. Three players were dismissed – two from the Jets and one from Welwyn – after a mass brawl that involved most of the outfield players. Stuart Blackburne opened the scoring after 36 minutes, lobbing keeper Duce, and that remained the only goal until the 90th minute when Blackburne notched his second, and three minutes into added on time Tom Lewis added the third. For the first time this season, **Hertford Town** recorded two successive victories as they came away from **Holmer Green** with a 3-0 win. The game was a personal triumph for Dave Hunt, who scored all three goals – one in the first half and two in the second – the last of the three coming from

the penalty spot. This defeat sees Holmer remain in bottom spot, two points adrift of **Brimsgate Rovers** who also lost away at **Leverstock Green**. 4-0 was the final score, with all 4 goals coming from different scorers in the second half. Danny Griggs set the ball rolling just after half time and James Armstrong doubled the lead with twenty minutes to go. Green had to wait right until the end however before two became four as John Davies and David Parkinson both got their names on the score sheet. The match between **Haringey Borough** and **Hanwell Town** was postponed due to a waterlogged pitch.

DIVISION ONE

Royston Town remain perched on top of the table as they inflicted a comprehensive first home league defeat on third placed **Hatfield Town** for almost two years. Hatfield started at a furious pace, but Royston weathered the storm and took the lead in the 30th minute when Ryan Lockett drilled the ball across the face of the goal for Will Turl to bundle home. The score remained 1-0 until half time, but the second half was dominated by the Crows and Craig Hammond and the centre forward collected his second hat trick in three games. On 50 minutes Hammond comfortably converted a penalty after a handball in the area, and three minutes later the game was all but over when Hammond beat the offside trap and rounded the keeper to fire home from ten yards. Hatfield began to throw players forward but were unable to create any real chances, and Hammond bagged his third with nine minutes remaining when his angled twenty five yard drive deflected off a defender's shin and looped over Hatfield's keeper to make the final score 4-0. **Bedford Town Reserves** went into a 25th minute lead, given them by Callum Lewis, in their home game with **Hoddesdon Town**, and then doubled that lead through Ishmael George before Mark Mezen reduced the deficit for the Lilywhites just before half time. Two further goals from Lewis, his second, and Michael Ewang not long after the break gave Bedford a three goal cushion, but Hoddesdon fought back and goals from Frantisek Koutnik and Emeka Nwamadi brought them right back in the game but with just three minutes left, Stacey Field made the game safe for Bedford. This result moves Bedford back up to 3rd spot whilst at the same time dropping Hoddesdon down to 8th. **London Colney** continued their up and down season with a 3-1 at home to **Cranfield United** – goals coming from Paul Danslow, Gary Simmonds and Russell Gallagher, whilst Barry Bellhouse replied for Cranfield. Two wins in the last 5 days have propelled **New Bradwell St. Peter** up from 8th to 5th – the latest being a 2-1 win away at **Sun Postal Sports**. The home side took a second minute lead through Ben Poulter, but Dave Cole equalised for the Peters shortly afterwards and Brendan Quill got the winner with twenty minutes to go. **Amphill Town** won 4-1 away at **Stony Stratford Town**, with a brace from Lee Loasby, a goal from Kevin Hyde against one of his former clubs, and one from Brian Cumberbatch, before Lewis McBride got on the score sheet for the home side. **Harpenden Town** beat **Tokington Manor** by three goals to nil, scorers being Danny Jefferies, Ben Dawes and Chris Gregory, whilst a brace from Terry Lock and one from Mark Outram were enough to see **Arlesey Athletic** defeat visitors **Buckingham Athletic** and move out of the bottom three places. Buckingham's goal came from Gavin Hansell. There were four goals scored at **Crawley Green**, with the visitors **Bedford FC** getting two in the first 10 minutes through an OG and Robbie Goodman, but the home side had to wait until the last 13 minutes before Daniel Razette and Robbie O'Dell brought them level and salvaged a point.

DIVISION TWO

Top match in the division was to be found in Luton where the ex leaders -**The 61 FC** – hosted the current leaders – **Wodson Park**. Yes, you guessed it....it was a 0-0 draw, with the home side probably slightly the happier with their point as they are only three points behind Wodson but have three games in hand. **AFC Dunstable** move up to second place following their 4-0 win away at **Old Bradwell United**. Bradwell made them wait until the second half but Robert Bannister started the ball rolling immediately after the break, and this was followed by a brace from Felix Kyeremeh and one from John Cooper. **Hadley** kept up the pressure on the leaders with a 9-1 thumping of luckless **Bletchley Town** who remain rooted to the foot of the table. Matt Hudson and Danny Gruar both scored hat tricks, Sumran Kaul got a pair and Neil Robinson completed the scoring right at the end. The pace of the lively **Bucks Student Union** forwards proved too hot to handle for **Mursley United** as the Students ran out 5-1 winners. The first three goals – two from Daddy Moses and one from recent signing Patou Katshenge - were all scored from breakaways (Moses second being a delightful chip over the keeper delivered at pace), and although Martin Shaw pulled one back for Mursley just before half time, that man Moses added another two in the second half to complete his personal tally of four and move the Students two places up the table. Another side to score five goals were **Markyate** who had a 5-2 win at home to **Pitstone & Ivinghoe**. The home side were three goals up inside the first 15 minutes through Damen Pickering, Rohan Deroses and Daniel Douglas although Kevin Temple reduced the deficit ten minutes later. Two goals in a minute, from Anthony Burnett and Deroses again, however stifled any hopes of a Pitstone revival, although Lawrence Bunker did get another for Pitstone with twelve minutes left. The basement battle between **Totternhoe** and **Kent Athletic** ended in a 1-1 draw – James McCarthy putting the villagers ahead in the first half only for Darren Lynch to equalise just after half time.

ANAGRAM RECORDS TROPHY – FIRST ROUND

Four matches involving SSMFL clubs and four victories. **Tring Corinthians** won the battle of the SSMFL clubs as they came away from **Aston Clinton** with a 2-1 win, goals coming from Richard Shittu and Lee Herring. **Brache Sparta** and **Winslow United** were both on their travels, and both recorded 5-0 victories. Brache got off to flying start in their game against **Bedmond Sports & Social** with three goals inside the first 25 minutes from Paul Brown, Mark Brown and Adrian Fontenelle but then had to wait until the last 15 minutes for the last two from Alan Chambers. There was a similar good start for Winslow against **Sandridge Rovers** as they went into a four goal lead at half time through Alex Woodfine, Ian Trott, Luke Bitmead and Fraser Lamble with new signing Taurean O'Sullivan supplying the fifth goal from the penalty spot in the second half. **Padbury United** rounded off the SSMFL's successes with a 3-0 home win against **Knaphill**, thanks to a brace from Dominic Lawless and one from Phil Bond.

BERKS & BUCKS INTERMEDIATE CUP – SECOND ROUND

Risborough Rangers moved smoothly into the 3rd Round with a 4-1 win over **Chalvey (WMC) Sports**. Lawrence Clarke and Robbie Morgan scored twice in the first half, before Lee Fryer pulled one back for Chalvey, but two further goals from David Pope and James Way secured Risboro's win.

MOLTEN SPORTS TEAMS OF THE MONTH –OCTOBER

Congratulations to the following three teams for their Divisional Team of the Month Awards.

Premier Division: Biggleswade Town

Division One: New Bradwell St. Peter

Division Two: The 61 FC

Presentations of a new Molten Match Ball and inscribed plaque will be given to all three teams in the near future.

ATTENTION ALL PROGRAMME EDITORS

News to bring a smile to all hard-pressed Programme Editors is that an accurate and updated History of Langford Football Club is now available on the club's web-site. No excuse now for being out of date!

200-UP FOR THE ASSOCIATION OF SSMFL MATCH OFFICIALS

The Association of SSMFL Match Officials is delighted to announce that the ambitious **200** membership target has now been reached, beating all previous records by some considerable distance. Treasurer and Membership Secretary Bill Hamilton is thrilled at the response from Spartan South Midlands referees and says it underlines the importance our match officials place on having a vibrant body to represent their interests in what many now see as the best run Feeder League in the country.

RESPECT CAMPAIGN YET TO REACH ROYSTON

Royston Town's president Alan Barlow has spoken of his anger after admitting the away team changing rooms at Garden Walk have been wrecked three times this season. Doors inside the away changing rooms have been kicked in and shower fittings have been pulled off the wall leaving the club with a £400 bill so far this campaign. The Crows have only played 14 home games this season in all competitions, including friendlies, but now the club have no alternative but to force teams to sign in and out of the changing rooms to try and cut down on the damage being done. Mr Barlow said: "What really makes me angry is the yobbo mentality of the players who are the culprits - they show themselves up and bring discredit to the clubs." "I can understand players getting upset because they've had a bad result, but when the game's over it's over and they shouldn't take it out on the facilities. He added: "It is really disappointing. The rooms were completely refurbished over the summer, including brand new shower areas, extended changing areas and new toilets. "A lot of time, effort and money went into the project and most of our visiting teams have congratulated the club on the improvements." Mr Barlow said he has contacted all three clubs involved and two have admitted responsibility and are willing to pay compensation. It is hoped the third club will also comply. "What really makes me angry is the yobbo mentality." "We've had a positive response from them, but we don't want to keep running to the League to complain about it but it's happening too often."

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

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