

MOLTEN SPORTS
SPARTAN SOUTH MIDLANDS FOOTBALL LEAGUE

NEWSLETTER No. 15

By Bill Scholes

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There were just three hat tricks this week, and only one in the League – that was from Ryan Wade of Broxbourne Borough V&E, who scored all four of his team's 4-0 win at Langford. In the Beds Senior Trophy, a hat trick from Aaron Lewis helped The 61 FC on their way against Renhold United, whilst in the Herts Intermediate Cup, Richard Shittu scored four for Tring Corinthians in their 6-2 win over Kimpton Rovers.

PREMIER DIVISION

It was a good week for **Harefield United** as, not only do they stay in top spot, but they have increased their lead over second place Langford to five points. A 31st minute goal by Danny Buckle was enough for the Hares to come away from **Hertford Town** with a 1-0 win, whilst **Langford** rather surprisingly went down 4-0 at home to **Broxbourne Borough**. The Boro hero was Ryan Wade who scored all four of his team's goals. **Biggleswade Town**, in third place, also surprisingly lost at home and also by 4-0, their victors being **Tring Athletic**, for whom Danny Gray and Mark Burfoot scored in the first half and Dave Whicker and Andy Mullins netted in the second half. **Kingsbury London Tigers** remain in fourth place following their 3-2 win away at **Cockfosters**, although they left it very, very late before securing all three points. In an amazing finale to the game, three goals were scored in added on time. Tigers took the lead in the third minute through Renars Zarchenko and were good value early on. Cockfosters fought their way back into the game and were finally rewarded when Dave Pigden levelled after 67 minutes. The drama was still to come as Edson Cata grabbed the lead for the Tigers on 90+1, Dan O'Connor levelled at 2-2 on 90+6, only for Elton Almeida to strike the winner on 90+7. **Colney Heath** moved back up to 5th after their 4-3 win away at **Holmer Green**. Holmer's Andy Shed fought valiantly to end their barren run of 11 league games without a win, putting the Greens single-handedly into the lead on three occasions but they were unable to hold on, particularly after Richard Wallace's dismissal for pulling down Richie Howard in the 63rd minute. Howard converted the penalty himself – his second of the game after Nicky Winger had equalised Shed's opener – and Trevor Stevens struck the winner for Heath a few minutes later. **Brimdson Rovers** picked up a valuable point in their 1-1 draw at home to **St. Margaretsbury** and have moved three clear of Holmer at the bottom. Jamie O'Donoghue gave Rovers a first lead but Kevin Ashwood levelled the scores in the second half. **Leverstock Green** celebrated the official opening of their refurbished clubhouse with a 3-0 win in their first ever league meeting with local rivals **Berkhamsted Town**, with all three goals, from Lachlan Cahill, James Armstrong and Jake Hart, coming in the second half. Berko would appear to be struggling to adapt to life in the SSMFL, and have now lost 12 league games, only one less the Holmer Green. There were goals galore at **Oxhey Jets** where the visitors were **Biggleswade United** and they came away with all three points following their 4-3 victory. Utd flew into a three goal lead at half time, courtesy of a brace from Nathan Hilaire and one from Luke Lincoln, but the Jets pulled

themselves back in the game with a couple of goals from Tim O'Mara and Karl Bull early in the second half. Sean Murray re established Utd's two goal cushion on 71 minutes but a Utd OG five minutes from the end led to a nervy last five, but Utd held on. **Chalfont St. Peter** still have games in hand on the leaders, but must start to pick up three points from these games if they are to mount a meaningful challenge to the leaders – following their 2-2 draw away at **Hanwell Town** they remain just below the mid table mark. The first half was rather uneventful, although the Saints missed a great chance to take the lead after thirty two minutes when Adam Bunce was fouled in the area - however, Danny Hughes saw his spot kick well saved by keeper Keiron Jimmy, diving to his left. Three minutes later Chalfont did score when a cross from Hughes allowed Martin Deeley to score at the second attempt after the first one was blocked. Hanwell equalized just before half time with a penalty of their own from Blaise O'Brien. Midway through the half the hosts took the lead when O'Brien ran onto a through ball to score his second. Three minutes later John Carroll had the Saints level direct from a free kick, but despite much pressure they were unable to find the winner. **Aylesbury Vale** left it until the 90th minute before claiming all three points in their 2-1 at home to **Haringey Borough**. Vinnie Iannone gave Vale the lead just before half time, but Lasalle brought Haringey back into the game just after the break, and so it stayed until Luke Melisi's last gasp winner. Two seasons ago, Stuart Blackburne scored 21 goals for the now defunct Edgware Town in the SSMFL, and he is now back on the score sheet with his second brace in successive weeks for **Welwyn Garden City** as they drew 2-2 with visitors **Kentish Town**. Jonathan Donoghue gave Town a 10th minute lead, but two quick goals from Blackburne, either side of half time, put the revitalised Citizens in the driving seat. Town's Paul Butler spoilt the party with his equaliser 5 minutes from the end.

DIVISION ONE

Royston Town defeated **Amersham Town** 3-1 at home to consolidate their place at the top of the pile, extending their lead to two points. Craig Hammond put the Crows in front in the first half when he lifted the ball over the keeper. At the beginning of the second half Hammond had the chance to double his tally from the spot but was denied by the Amersham keeper who was in fine form. David Cain doubled the lead after 65 minutes when he was left unmarked from a corner to head home the second. Amersham pulled one back through Jude Eboji five minutes later only for Hammond to restore the two goal lead with his second of the game. Second placed **Kings Langley** were held to a 1-1 draw away at **Hoddesdon Town** who took an early lead through Emeka Nwamadi, only for much traveled striker Allan Arthur to level it up on the hour mark. **Hatfield Town** moved back up to third following their hard earned 2-0 win in a tricky away fixture at **Winslow United**. The home side created enough chances to take the lead, but were thwarted by some excellent goalkeeping from young custodian Sam Styles and some wayward finishing. Hatfield began to exert control in the second half and were rewarded with two goals from Trevor Golder and Jason Caswell. Another club to move up one place were **London Colney**, who had a comfortable 4-1 win at home against **Sun Postal Sports**. Colney took a two goal lead through Sam Mitchell before Neil Richardson pulled Sun back into the game, but two further goals from Dean Barker completed Colney's day. **Harpenden Town** took the lead through Will Bates in their away game at **New Bradwell St. Peter** but the hosts bounced back with the equaliser just before half time from Mike O'Farrell. **Stony Stratford Town** moved up two places following their 3-1 win against

visitors **Sport London e Benfica**. Matt Fraser gave Stony a first half lead, and two goals within a minute from Dan Walker on the hour mark put them firmly in the driving seat. There was some consolation for SLB a minute from the end when Kevin Bruce reduced the arrears from the penalty spot. **Tokyngton Manor** also moved up a place as they beat **Buckingham Athletic** 3-0 at home – goals coming from Dan Owen and Tim Maynard in the first half and Andy Watson in the second.

DIVISION TWO

With the top two clubs not involved in league action, **Hadley** took the opportunity to go top, albeit on goal difference, as they beat **Old Bradwell United** 1-0 away, thanks to a Steve Gray goal midway through the first half. **Caddington** eased home 4-0 against **Pitstone & Ivinghoe** with a first half goal from Courtney Massey and second half goals from John Graham (2) and Bernie Christie. **Mursley United** defeated visitors **Risborough Rangers** 3-1, thanks to a first half penalty from Chris Pittam and second half goals from Paul Hollingsworth and Martin Shaw. **Bucks Student Union** now have the third best goal scoring record in the league (behind AFC Dunstable and Hadley) as their total reached 40 following their 4-2 win at home to **Bletchley Town**. Chris Cox gave the Students a first half lead, which Patou Katshenge doubled from the penalty spot just after the break. Bletchley immediately responded through Jermaine Kufi and an unlikely point looked on the cards as Peter Maddingham brought them level with just 8 minutes left. Within a minute however, Steve McQueen put the Students back in front and Daddy Moses could not be kept off the score sheet as he scored in the last minute. Any spectators at **Padbury United** leaving for an early, and probably much needed, warming cup of tea at half time may well have missed the two goals in the game against **Aston Clinton** as they came within two minutes of each other just before the break. Liam Walsh put the visitors in front on 43 minutes only for Dominic Lawless to equalise in the 45th minute.

BEDS SENIOR TROPHY – SECOND ROUND

Generally a good week for SSMFL clubs in this competition, with good wins for **The 61 FC** – a hat trick from Aaron Lewis and a brace from Hayden Wills helping them to a 5-3 win away at **Renhold United** – and for **AFC Dunstable** who defeated **Sharnbrook** 3-1 away with first half goals from Gareth Seeley, Felix Kyeremeh and John Cooper. There was an excellent 2-1 win for Div Two strugglers **Totternhoe**, who beat **Bedford FC** from Div One by 2-1. On the score sheet for Totternhoe were James McCarthy and Stefan Tracey, whilst Dan Eagles replied for Bedford. Div One side **Cranfield United** had a narrow escape against Div Two side **Kent Athletic**, eventually winning 3-2, the winner from Gary Hutchinson only coming in the last three minutes. Elsewhere, **Amphill Town** succumbed 5-2 after extra time to Campton, and **Brache Sparta** went down 4-0 away at **Oakley Sports**.

HERTS INTERMEDIATE CUP – SECOND ROUND

Markyate beat **Bushey Rangers** 4-1 with a brace apiece from David Douglas and Adam Mead, whilst **Tring Corinthians** had a comfortable 6-2 win, helped by a first half hat trick from Richard Shittu, over **Kimpton Rovers**. **Wodson Park** went down 3-0 to **Sarratt**, but elsewhere there were wins for **Berkhamsted Town Reserves**, **Broxbourne Borough Reserves**, **Kings Langley Reserves**, **Royston Town Reserves**, **Harpenden Town Reserves**, **London Colney Reserves**, and **Sun Postal Sports Reserves**.

CHALFONT ST. PETER WEBSITE

Chalfont St. Peter has been experiencing problems with their website recently, and it now looks as though they may have a long term issue. They have set up an alternative site which will act as their official site until further notice, and will contain all the usual information, - club history, facts and figures and squad info etc. The new address is:- <http://www.clubwebsite.co.uk/chalfontstpeterafc01>

TITTLE-TATTLE

A leaked list showing the names of voters for John Sargeant on the BBC's Strictly Come Dancing programme has revealed the identities of two of Luton's finest. There are also indications that the real reason for John Sargeant leaving the show last week has its origins in the SSMFL. TG has been worried for some time about the eligibility of Mr Sargeant, as he claims not to have received his registration form in time, whilst EH continues to worry about fixture congestion and is concerned that Mr Sargeant will gather another 10 friends around him and apply to join Division Two next season. On a personal note, the Editor is very disappointed that he will no longer be able to watch Kristina Rhianoff doing The Twist on a Saturday night.

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

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