

MOLTEN SPORTS
SPARTAN SOUTH MIDLANDS FOOTBALL LEAGUE

NEWSLETTER No.16

By Bill Scholes

Saturday 29th November 2008

Just the one hat trick this week and that was by Andy Mullins for Tring Athletic, which is good news, as I have space to apologise to Andy Shed of Holmer Green for omitting to mention his hat trick last week against Colney Heath. This was a woeful lapse on my part, particularly as Mr Shed seems hell bent on a one-man mission to extract Holmer from the bottom two!

LEAGUE CHALLENGE TROPHY – SECOND ROUND

Amersham Town moved smoothly into the 3rd Round with an emphatic 6-0 win away at Division Two side **Risborough Rangers**. Gary Savill, Darren Butler and Kevin Auodele put Town three up at half time, and Jude Eboji and Denilson Vicente, with a brace, doubled the score in the second half. Amersham now face The 61FC, who have already put out Harefield and Hertford, in the next round.

PREMIER DIVISION

Harefield United remain in top spot, and have extended their lead to six points, although they only drew 0-0 at home to **Hanwell Town** in front of the days second largest crowd (104). **Langford**, in second place before Saturday, lost their fourth game on the trot, (2 in the League and 2 in the Cups) rather surprisingly going down 2-1 away at **St. Margaretsbury**, and they drop back to third. Kevin Ashwood gave Bury an early lead, but they had to wait until the 76th minute before Andy Birnie scored their second. Within a minute Langford had pulled one back through Liam Errington, but despite pressure they could not find the vital equaliser. The largest crowd of the day (121) was at **Hertford Town** to see the return of previous Blues favourites, Kevin Cooper, Ryan Redford and Kevin Kilroy, now wearing the green and white stripes of **Biggleswade Town**. All the goal action was in the second half, as Hertford opened the scoring in the 52nd minute with a well struck free kick from Duncan Hamilton, but the Waders responded on the hour with a Glen Lamacraft equaliser from close quarters. With 15 minutes left, Kevin Cooper thought he had scored the winner against his old club but Alex Scrivens had other ideas and slotted home the equalizer with 6 minutes remaining to ensure honours were even. **Kingsbury London Tigers** remain in fourth place following their 1-1 draw at home to the new look **Welwyn Garden City**, although with Tigers down to 9 men, the Citizens will surely view the result as two points lost Welwyn took the lead in the second half after Tom Lewis rifled home following good work from Fabio Valenti. Damontino So Jilo was then dismissed for alleged violent conduct, but with just over 10 minutes remaining Tigers equalised through Adriano Gomes Marques. There was still time for Adil Saih to be red carded, but the 9 Tigers hung on for their point. **Broxbourne Borough** were the days biggest movers as they climbed three places from 9th to 6th following their hard earned 1-0 win at home to **Holmer Green**. Holmer certainly had the better of the first half with Mr. Shed always looking dangerous and the Boro were indebted to their gloves man Obey

Murefu for keeping them in the game. Broxbourne came more into the game in the second half and the vital goal was scored from an excellent free kick just outside the box by Daryl Mitchell which curled tantalisingly into the top corner despite keeper Gareth Tinsley's best efforts. For some strange reason, in real brass monkey weather, Mitchell decided to take his shirt off and run around semi naked! (And yes, Mick he was booked..... Tommy did his job.) The same player nearly doubled Boro's money not long after when an identical free kick from the same place flashed narrowly wide. Good job he didn't score – he might have taken his shorts off! Holmer's heads did not drop and they battled to the end, but the final finish evaded them. **Leverstock Green** dropped a place to 7th as they lost 2-1 away to a last gasp winner from Terrell Lewis at **Chalfont St. Peter** – the home side's first league win in 6 games. The Saints took the lead in the 29th minute when John Carroll headed home from a corner for his third goal in as many games but Leverstock equalised through David Parkinson after he had been put through by Matt Wardle. With both sides striving for the winner, and four minutes into added on time, it was left to sub Lewis to break away and slot home past Simon Bartley to secure all three points with virtually the last kick of the game. All the goals in the **Aylesbury Vale v Oxhey Jets** game came within 12 minutes of each other in the second half, with Jamie Rudd, Neil Roberts (pen) and Luke Melisi hitting the target in the 3-0 win. A three goal burst in 7 minutes virtually secured a much needed win for **Berkhamsted Town** in their home fixture against an in form **Colney Heath** side that are having their best season yet in the Premier. Ryan Blake's double sandwiched a goal from Ashley Addison between the 50th and 57th minutes, and although Phil Jackman reduced the deficit in the 70th minute, Shaun Biswell added a fourth for Berko shortly afterwards but there was still time for Jackman to notch his second just before the end. Just along the road at the Grass Roots Stadium, a second half hat-trick from Andy Mullins added to first half goals from David Whicker(pen)and Mark Burfoot saw **Tring Athletic** chalk up their 4th consecutive win against struggling **Brimsdown Rovers** who are finding life difficult this season. Rovers rallied briefly at the start of the second half, reducing the deficit through Ryan Dear, but Athletic were soon back in control. The games between **Haringey Borough** and **Cockfosters** and **Kentish Town** and **Biggleswade United** were both postponed due to waterlogged pitches.

DIVISION ONE

A last-gasp Craig Hammond goal salvaged a point for leaders **Royston Town** as they struggled against a tenacious **London Colney** side at a foggy Garden Walk. Hammond put the Crows into the lead on the half hour mark from the penalty spot, but Lee Benning's cross / shot flew into the net four minutes later to bring the Blue Boys level. Colney were on the offensive from the start of the second half and Dean Barker gave them the lead ten minutes after the break. Time was running out for Royston to avoid a second league defeat, but Hammond saved their blushes by firing home from close range to make the final score 2-2. The point gained has extended the Crows lead at the top to 3 points, but they have used up one of their games in hand. With Kings Langley and Hatfield Town both in County Cup action, **Bedford Town Reserves** took advantage to move up a place as they completed a 2-0 victory at home against **Buckingham Athletic**. On target were Adam Boughton and Paul Draycott. **Arlesey Athletic** also won 2-0 at home to **Ampt Hill Town** with a goal in each half from Wayne Blows and Terry Lock. **Winslow United** fell to a second successive 2-0 defeat – this time away to **Crawley Green** for whom Robbie

O'Dell scored both goals. **Bedford FC** racked up a three goal lead inside 35 minutes in their home game with **New Bradwell St. Peter**, thanks to strikes from Chris Huckle, Jeremy Noslin and Mark Reed, but could not add to that total whilst Craig Townsend scored the Peters consolation goal deep into added on time. Despite Stuart Reynolds giving them a 9th minute lead, **Cranfield United** went down 3-1 at home to **Stony Stratford Town** – Dan Walker notching a brace and Michael McKenzie getting the other. **Sun Postal Sports** moved out of the bottom three as they claimed only their fourth league win of the season with a 3-1 victory at home to **Tokyngton Manor**. The visitors took a first half lead through Tim Maynard, but the Sun came out in the second half and goals from Liam Kenna, Keith Mahon and Stuart Farrell secured the win. **Sport London e Benfica's** home game with **Brache Sparta** was postponed due to the weather.

DIVISION TWO

Hadley opened up a one point gap at the top of the table following their 3-1 win at home to **Padbury United**. Danny Guar gave the home side a half time lead and two goals in five minutes from Steve Gray and Mathew Hudson around the hour mark made the victory safe. Dominic Lawless scored a late consolation goal the visitors. With Wodson Park involved in cup action, **AFC Dunstable** moved up to second spot after their 4-2 win at home to **Tring Corinthians**. The visitors went into a 2-1 lead at half time with goals from Richard Shittu and Lee Herring, but Dunstable hit back in the second half with three from Gareth Seeley, Felix Kyeremeh and Michael Laws. **The 61 FC** also took advantage of Wodson's inactivity to move back up to third as they beat **Aston Clinton** 2-1 on their home patch. Peter Weirich gave the visitors the lead at half time, but no doubt spurred on by a Dick Everett half time talk, The 61 turned the game around in the second half with two goals from Stephen Gravestock and Hayden Wills. **Bucks Student Union** climbed up to 7th spot, their highest to date, as they came back from **Markyate** with a 2-0 victory under their belts – scorers being Mortis Pape and Murray Heywood. A see-saw game at **Bletchley Town** saw the lead change three times as the home side strove for their first league win, but in the end they had to settle for one point as **Mursley United** evened the score up at 3-3. On target for Bletchley were Pete Geyton with two and Daniel Vincent, whilst Mursley's scorers were Steve Mooney, Martin Shaw and Ed Mills. A James McCarthy penalty after 72 minutes ensured **Totternhoe** a share of the spoils as they came back from being one down to a Danny Swann goal in their game against **Caddington**, whilst **Kent Athletic** and **Pitstone & Ivinghoe** also shared the points in their 2-2 draw. Rondell Bedford and Matt Rootham scored for Kent whilst the villagers had Mark Allen to thank for both their goals.

DIVISION TWO CUP – SECOND ROUND

Wodson Park eased into the next round with a 3-0 home win over Old **Bradwell United**. Scorers were Scott Brunton with a goal in each half, and Glen Holman.

HERTS SENIOR TROPHY – SECOND ROUND

Herts County League side **Bovingdon**, who put Royston Town out in the last round, almost achieved a second SSMFL scalp as they gave **Hatfield Town** a real fright. In a game with lots of goals, it was tied 3-3 at the end of normal time and 4-4 after the extra 30 minutes before Hatfield emerged as 4-3 winners in the penalty shoot out. **Hoddesdon**

also needed extra time before they overcame **Lemsford** 2-0, whilst **Harpenden Town** came away from **Met Police Bushey** with a 3-1 win. However, there was a defeat for **Kings Langley**, who lost 2-1 at home to **London Lions**.

THE WONDERFUL FAMILY OF NON LEAGUE FOOTBALL

I recently received a lovely email from **Fred Varney**, a Life Vice president of **Hoddesdon Town**, which I am very pleased to reprint below. Every non league club at our level needs loyal supporters like Fred – in fact most clubs would be over the moon with around 20 – 30 or so like Fred.

Dear Bill,

I am not sure if we have met but I look forward to reading your newsletter each week in the Hoddesdon Town programme. I am now 81 years old and went to watch my first game at Hoddesdon in 1927 as a treat from my dad, and remember being taken there on the crossbar of his bike. I attend as many first team and reserve games that I possible can with help from my son, who is typing this for me before we attend the cup match tonight against Winslow. My son joined the committee last season, a job I did with great fondness for over 30 years which includes in that time a little trip to Wembley. Roger even made me a Hoddesdon Life Vice president on my eightieth birthday which was a great honour, and in an era when young people are knocked quite easily it is a pleasure for me to be acknowledged by the Hoddesdon players who when they see me home or away always make a point of coming over and shaking my hand and making me very welcome. Recently this season my Daughter Elaine and her husband Graham Phillips who you may recall from their time at Royston have also joined the Committee. For my 81st birthday my family helped me celebrate by taking me to Cranfield to watch the first team in action and whenever possible each first team game is made into a family trip out. The reason I am writing to you is in your recent newsletter you asked for any positive comments about the local football scene and I would like to make you aware of the excellent Hoddesdon Town Programme that is put together each week by Jane and Colin Sinden and takes me most of the week to get through which recently won its 50th award and finished 7th nationally. I do feel that these unsung heroes go unnoticed and just a bit of recognition would be very welcome in your column. If you are ever at Hoddesdon you will find me next to the home dugout and now that winter is upon us I will be sat very quietly in the corner of the committee room at half time looking at the old pictures and remembering all the good times at Lowfield past present and hopefully in the future.

Yours in sport, Fred Varney

I will certainly look out for you Fred next to the dug out on my next visit to Hoddesdon, and of course you are totally correct in singing the praises of Jane Sinden for her excellent Programme.

A GREAT WEEK FOR LEVERSTOCK GREEN FC

Leverstock Green Football Club has just celebrated a fantastic week in the club's history. On Saturday 22nd November the club held a Grand Opening at Pancake Lane to celebrate the official opening of the Peter Metcalfe dressing rooms and the clubhouse refurbishment. The club also celebrated gaining FA Charter Standard for the senior club and by Leverstock Green Ladies FC. Chairman Bill Dawes welcomed many guests from the

football world in addition to sponsors, neighbours and members. He made references to new and past members who had contributed to the club's continuing success off the field. He also made reference to the on-field activities, the senior team playing in the Spartan South Midlands Premier Division, the U18 Floodlight team, The Ladies team and the ever growing youth teams. The opening was proudly made by Janet Metcalfe who unveiled a plaque dedicated to the new dressing rooms in the name of Peter Metcalfe, her late husband who was Mr Leverstock Green FC.

On Thursday 27th November the football club received further good news when it received planning permission from Dacorum Borough Council for its new 113-seat stand. The new stand meets FA regulations on seating requirements for all clubs at Step 5 Level.

Great news for Leverstock Green and congratulations to all their Committee, with specific mention in despatches to Tony Smart, who has worked tirelessly on achieving the planning permission – he was actually 6ft tall when he started!

It just goes to show..... NEVER SAY NEVER

IT'S FA VASE WEEK

The very best of luck to all our 4 sides playing in the FA Vase this week end. **Biggleswade Town** are the only club with home advantage and they host **Wivenhoe** from the Eastern Counties League. Rumour has it that Waders Club Vice Presidents Jimmy Tarbuck and Ian St. John will be there egging on their club. Waders Jon Smith stated "the Asda value biscuits for the Boardroom are out of the question for this match. It'll be Waitrose Finest and hot mince pies for this important Vase tie. I think Ian and Jimmy knew that and it's really why they are now coming!" The Eastern Counties League also provide the opposition for **Harefield United** who are away to last years Vase finalists **Lowestoft Town**, whilst **Aylesbury Vale** travel to **Leiston.**, also in Suffolk. **Chalfont St. Peter** will be heading in the opposite direction, southwards towards the sun as they journey down to the sea side to play Sussex County League side **Selsey**.

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

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