

MOLTEN SPORTS
SPARTAN SOUTH MIDLANDS FOOTBALL LEAGUE

NEWSLETTER No. 17

By Bill Scholes

Saturday 6th December 2008

Just two hat trick heroes this week, and both in Cup competitions. Ryan Redford scored three for Biggleswade Town in the FA Vase, whilst Harry Baxter's three came for Bucks Student Union in the Berks & Bucks Intermediate Cup.

F.A. Carling VASE – 3rd ROUND

CONGRATULATIONS TO BIGGLESWADE TOWN AND CHALFONT ST. PETER WHO HAVE BOTH MADE IT THROUGH TO THE LAST 32 OF THE FA VASE

It was a lovely sunny day, albeit a tad on the chilly side, for **Chalfont St. Peter's** charabanc trip to the seaside to play Sussex League side **Selsey** in front of a crowd of 265. With Selsey not having lost a home Vase tie for 10 years and, having only let in 9 goals in their league campaign to date, a tight game was expected and indeed the first half was exactly that, with the referee being extremely lenient in allowing a large number of fouls to be committed without issuing any cards. This had the effect of breaking up the game, and with both sides clearly nervous early on, no clear pattern of play was established by either side. The first chance fell to Selsey's Steve Boston, whose weak shot went wide from a free kick. The Saint's best chance of the half fell to Charlie Strutton ten minutes from the interval. He received a through ball to run clear on goal, but a covering defender got back just in time to deflect the shot wide for a corner. Alan Hedley also shot wide following a pass from Adam Bunce. Jaffa time came with the game finely balanced, but immediately after the restart the game was held up for around 25 minutes following a suspected dislocated knee suffered by the big home No.9 Steve Boston, which resulted in an ambulance being called to take him to hospital. Although scant consolation at the time, he went with the best wishes of the crowd and the Chalfont delegation ringing in his ears. At the same time as the injury, presumably coincidentally, the floodlights went out and so did the electrics in the kitchen, resulting in the deep fat fryer being out of action – unrest from the locals! The lengthy stoppage seemed to affect the home side more and Chalfont slowly began to get on top. After Bunce put a free kick narrowly past the post, Strutton was brought down in the area and, with the usual penalty taker on the bench, the crowd were treated to probably the worst penalty in the world – the Chalfont No.5 putting the ball several hundred yards above the bar – it was seen still climbing as it reached Bognor! Chalfont's heads however did not drop and they finally took the lead after seventy three minutes when Terrell Lewis sped down the right and beat keeper Steve Philips at his near post with a shot from an acute angle. Four minutes later it was all over when Charlie Strutton scored with a magnificent effort from thirty yards which flew into the top far corner leaving the Selsey glovesman stranded. It was good to meet the Selsey secretary Tony Ford again – well known to a number of SSMFL officials from his days on the Chiltonian and Combined Counties Leagues – and chew over old times. A crowd of 190 saw **Biggleswade Town** breeze through to the last 32 in this season's FA Carlsberg Vase

with a comprehensive 6-0 victory over fifth-placed Ridgeons Premier League side **Wivenhoe Town**. Jack Weeden missed an opening minute header before Ryan Redford opened the scoring in the third minute and doubled it just before the break. Glen Lamacraft added the third on the resumption while Redford completed his hat-trick for 4-0 before Kevin Kilroy and Neil Morgan added their names to the scoresheet to book a place in the fourth round. Commiserations to both Harefield Utd and Aylesbury Vale who faced difficult away games to strong Eastern Counties League opposition and so it proved. In front of a crowd of 862, **Harefield United** lost 2-1 to **Lowestoft Town**, last years runners up in this competition and current table toppers, who produced a dominant first half performance that was enough to see them through to victory. Goals from Ross King and Richard Woodrow gave them a 2-0 lead at the break - and they could even afford a penalty miss from Darren Cockrill. Harefield fought back in the second half and reduced the deficit with a penalty from Danny Buckle 15 minutes from time, but the Blues survived a last minute scare when the Hares hit the post to hold out and book their place in the next round. **Aylesbury Vale** also bowed out of the competition, losing 4-1 to a strong **Leiston** side who reached the First Round Proper of the FA Cup recently. Leiston got off to the best possible start with a second minute goal from Marc Lowe, but Vale hung in and were rewarded with an equaliser from Neil Roberts in the 53rd minute. However, two further goals from Lowe completed his hat trick, and Ben Seaman added the fourth with eleven minutes left to seal Vale's fate.

F.A. VASE FOURTH ROUND – SATURDAY 17th JANUARY 2009

There was a vastly different result for our two remaining sides in the 4th Round draw, which at this stage now becomes national. **Biggleswade Town** must be very pleased with yet another home draw – this time they will host ex Isthmian League side **Croydon** who currently ply their trade in the Kent Senior League. Croydon are managed by ex Spurs striker David Leworthy and they overcame Camberley 3-1 in the last round. In contrast **Chalfont St. Peter** must climb aboard their trusty charabanc again (unless Chairman Denis Mair hires a plane!) for the long trip north to Tyne & Wear to play **Dunston Federation** from the Northern League. The Federation ground is just outside the huge Gateshead Metro Shopping Centre, which at least means that the Chalfont W.A.G.S. will be happy bunnies. In their two rounds played to date, both away, Dunston have beaten Formby 4-0 and Tipton Town 3-0.

PREMIER DIVISION

Harefield's lead at the top of the table has been cut to 3 points as **Langford** took advantage of the top two's participation in the Vase to move up to second following their hard fought 3-2 win at home to plucky **Haringey Borough**. They left it late however, before Jay Delasalle scored the winner in the second minute of added on time. Earlier, Boro took a shock second minute lead through Nurat Karagul before Rob Groves pulled the Reds back into the game, and eight minutes later Delasalle's first goal gave them the lead. It was a lead they held until four minutes from time when Chris West must have thought he had secured a point for the Boro, but Delasalle had other ideas. **Colney Heath** moved back into the top four with a comprehensive 5-0 win at home to up and down **Broxbourne Borough**. Richie Howard and Ant Muthusamy gave Heath a two goal lead at half time, and Jake Parratt, and a late brace from Aaron Clarke completed the route.

Biggleswade United and **Berkhamsted Town** shared a point a piece and a goal a piece in their game at Second Meadow. Ryan Blake gave the visitors an early lead only for Sean Murray to equalise on the stroke of half time. **Oxhey Jets** move up two places to 7th following their 2-1 win at home to **Cockfosters**, who took the lead through Jon Moniatas in the 22nd minute. The Jets fought back and Tim O'Mara brought the scores level seven minutes later before Adam Lowton came up with the winner early in the second half. **St. Margaretsbury** came from behind to beat visitors **Hertford Town** 2-1, thanks to an OG and a late winner from the penalty spot by John Barker. Attila Korsoveczki gave the Blues the early lead. The game between **Leverstock Green** and resurgent visitors **Welwyn Garden City** was goalless in the first half, but all the important action took place in the last 45 minutes. The second half was less than a minute old when a through ball found the Green defence square and Stuart Blackburne got in behind and slotted past keeper Graham Milner to put the visitors into the lead. Within two minutes the lead was doubled as a back pass came up short, and Blackburne nipped in and took the ball round the stranded Milner for his second goal of the game and inflict Leverstock's first league defeat at home since August 23. The Citizens are now unbeaten in the 5 games under their new management.

DIVISION ONE

With Royston Town's game at Tokyngton Manor falling foul of the weather, **Kings Langley** took the opportunity to move level on points at the top, although with an inferior goal difference, as they beat **Amptill Town** 1-0 at home, thanks to a second half goal from veteran striker Allan Arthur. **Hatfield Town** leapfrogged **Bedford Town Reserves** to move up to 3rd with a 1-0 win against their Meadow Lane opponents. The only goal of the game came from winger Lewis Field after 20 minutes. A cross in from the left from front-man Daniel Staples was headed into a dangerous area by Bedford full-back Paul Dwyer and Field was on hand to stroke the ball past Joe Pursell and into the net. It was a cold but bright sunny afternoon at **Winslow United** where they entertained visitors **Cranfield United** and the end-to-end football warmed the watching supporters. Cranfield started brightly but it was Winslow who scored when a right wing cross was headed into the net by an unmarked Chris Hill on 15 minutes. Whilst the balance of play was even, it was Winslow that carried the most threat and they should have gone further ahead but Hill one-on-one with the 'keeper, saw Andy Gibb deflect his shot wide of the goal. The only real effort from Cranfield came on 39 minutes when a long range shot just flew past a Winslow post. The second half saw Cranfield dominate the opening minutes and Barry Bellhouse missed a great chance to even the scores when he miss-kicked the ball when in front of goal. Cranfield again had an opportunity to put the game safe but Chris Hill saw his 57th minute penalty kick superbly saved by Gibb in the Cranfield goal. Cranfield continued to have the better of play but without really looking like scoring and Winslow comfortably held on for the 1-0 and three precious league points. On a bright, crisp afternoon, there was little of merit to report on in an evenly matched first half between **Sun Postal Sports** and **Amersham Town**, although Sun did hit the crossbar with a good effort midway through the half. The second period was entirely different though. Amersham's Danilson Vicente was pulled down by home defender Liam Kenna when clean through on goal after only five minutes of second half action, Kenna duly being invited to take an early bath for his pains. Although Adamson Ajayi made a hash of the penalty kick, blasting the ball high over the bar, the game turned from this point. Sun

Postal struggled to compete with a man light, and despite Postal bringing on sub Matt Primus to shore up the defence, Amersham took complete control. Home 'keeper Mark Jessop did his best against the onslaught, making several good stops, but was unable to prevent Vicente scoring twice before substitute Denzil Davidson netted the killer third. But for a stuttering start to the season, **London Colney** would surely be putting pressure on the leaders, but as it is they remain in 5th place following their 2-1 win away at **Sport London e Benfica**. All the goals came in the last 11 minutes of the game – Paul Danslow put Colney in front with 8 minutes left, only for SLB to draw level 3 minutes later through Kevin Bruce. The winner came three minutes into added on time from Sam Mitchell. **Hoddesdon Town** fought back from going behind to an early goal from Chris Huckle in their home game with **Bedford FC**, and eventually triumphed 3-1, thanks to a goal in each from Emeka Nwamadi, and one from Frantisek Koutnik. The biggest movers this week were **Harpenden Town**, who moved up three places from 12th to 9th, following their 3-2 home win over **Crawley Green**. Robbie O'Dell gave Crawley a 4th minute lead which they held for almost 30 minutes before Nick Chapman brought Harpenden level. Ian Turkentine then put the home side in front before the break – Luke Maloney pulled Crawley back on level terms just after the hour mark, but Chris Gregory sealed the three points with his winner seven minutes later.

DIVISION TWO

The battle of the top two between **AFC Dunstable** and **Hadley** turned out to be an exciting game with both sides sharing 6 goals and a point apiece. Just a solitary goal before half time, scored by Dunstable's Michael Laws, to warm the 48 spectators but the floodgates opened in the second half as goals went in at regular intervals. Hadley drew level just after the restart through Delroy Balfour, but Dunstable went back in front 5 minutes later courtesy of Felix Kyeremeh. Another 5 minutes elapsed before Hadley were again back on level terms, this time thanks to Bashir Elsayahli, and there was then a barren spell for 15 minutes before Ross Morrison once again put Dunstable in front. Still not over, as Steve Gray ensured honours were even with ten minutes left. With AFC only managing a point, **The 61 F.C.** moved above them into second place following their 2-0 win away at **Pitstone & Ivinghoe**. Alex Bennett gave the Luton side a 4th minute lead, but it was not until Hayden Wills scored their second with just 12 minutes left that they were able to relax. Another side to only obtain one point were **Wodson Park**, who were rather surprisingly held to a 1-1 draw away at bottom club **Bletchley Town**. An OG gave the home side the lead ten minutes after the break and time was running out for Wodson before Mike Ryan came up with the equaliser. **Totternhoe** achieved only their second league win of the campaign as they came back from **Aston Clinton** with a 4-1 victory, thanks to a second half brace from Danny Sutherland and late goals from Henry Mungwira and Stefan Tracey. Sam Bramley was on target for the home side. **Markyate** got off to a flying start away at **Caddington** as Tony Bennett, Adam Meade and Scott Harvey put them three up with just 16 minutes elapsed. Paul Downes reduced the deficit on the stroke of Jaffa time, but Markyate scored twice more through Bennett's second and Aaron Hamilton, before Courtney Massey notched Caddington's second. In the Division's remaining game, a goal in each half was enough to see **Kent Athletic** safely home against **Old Bradwell United**.

BERKS & BUCKS INTERMEDIATE CUP – THIRD ROUND

Bucks Student Union, in their first year in this competition, march on to the next round with a comfortable 6-2 win over fellow Division Two side **Risborough Rangers**. Harry Baxter was the hero with a hat trick, whilst Patou Katshenge weighed in with a brace and Daddy Moses popped up again to complete the scoring. Martin Griggs and Sam Agace were on target for Bob Rayner's boys. Also through to the next round are(I'm just building the suspense, Eric) **Stony Stratford Town** who left it very late to beat **Mursley United** – the two vital goals coming from Dan Walker as time ran out – and **Padbury United** who beat **Aylesbury Vale Reserves** 4-1, with strikes from Dominic Lawless, Terry Markey, Phil Bond and Sam Bearman.

ANAGRAMS RECORDS TROPHY -2nd ROUND

Tring Corinthians put up a gallant fight before going down 4-3 aet to previous holders **White Ensign**. On target for Tring were Luke Ryan, with a pair, and Lee Herring. **Brache Sparta** lost 6-1 at home to **Park Street Village**, who scored all seven goals in the game, including the OG credited to Brache.

DID YOU KNOW THAT.....

There was a real case of Groundhog Day in the lists of leading goalscorers released this week by Terry Gilmore. The leading two in the Premier Division are Blaise O'Brien of Hanwell and Richard Howard of Colney Heath – 4 years ago the same pair were at the top, although both were playing for different clubs who are no longer in the League – O'Brien for Hillingdon Borough and Howard for Potters Bar Town.

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

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STOP PRESS.....STOP PRESS.....STOP PRESS.....STOP PRESS.....

A LOCAL HERO IN OUR MIDST

By Stony Stratford Town HonSec, Steve Sartain

On Monday 8th December, BBC Look East held their Regional Awards (leading up to the National Unsung Hero Award) at Duxford Air Museum, just south of Cambridge, and the winner was.... **Mike Judd (Juddy) of Stony Stratford Town FC**. Seated next to one of his sons, he evidently sat in stunned silence when his name was called out – like a rabbit caught in a car's headlights. Mike will now attend the live BBC Sports Personality of the Year awards to be held in Liverpool on Sunday 14th December (on BBC1, starting at 7.30pm). He will be one of 14 regional finalists hoping to win the coveted national title.

Mike Judd – 25 years loyal service to Stony Stratford Town FC

Mike moved to Milton Keynes in 1979, but lost his wife of many years to cancer shortly afterwards, leaving him to bring up two sons, the eldest of which was only 6-years-old. This was the time he decided to devote all of his available time to his sons and got involved in running the local Scout Group in Stony Stratford. When the two boys decided to play football at the local club in 1983, Mike decided to get involved himself and help to run it. What's remarkable about this I hear you ask? Well, when you consider the above,

he was also holding down a full time job and doing all the household chores. This list of jobs would have had most mere mortals running for the hills. His service at the Club has been outstanding. He has been on every side of the management of the club from the very beginning. He started out as manager of a very successful youth team. He then became Youth Secretary, looking after all the teams' fixtures from under 18's right down to the youngest teams. He also carries out all the groundworks on the 3 full size pitches, stand, floodlights and surrounding areas on his own. It is worth pointing out that this is a mammoth task on its own. On two separate occasions he has held the office of Chairman, attending all the relevant meetings and dealing with the five different leagues with which the club is involved. He also carries out all running repairs to the main clubhouse, serves behind the bar every time we are open and opens up for every training session at all age group levels and every match day. He carries out work on a day to day basis, every day of the week including Sundays. He works at least five hours per day, every day, for no reward at all. He is still doing the Youth Secretary's job, the groundsman's job, is a serving Committee Member and also helps out at the local old peoples home that overlooks our main pitch. He is also a serving Committee Member on the local Sports Council for the Ancell Trust (a charitable trust that owns the entire sporting area that caters not just for football but also bowls, cricket, croquet and tennis). As well as all of this, he still finds time to watch our first team on Saturdays and any youth team of ours that are playing on a Sunday. He is the listening ear for the whole club, especially the youngsters. If anyone has a problem he is always first in line to help out, never asks for anything in return and nothing is too much trouble. He is truly a rare breed, never complaining and often putting his own money into the club to help out as well as doing all of the above jobs without batting an eye. He should be wearing his underpants over his trousers; he is Superman to this club. He never talks about himself and always thinks of others first; a true stalwart of our community.

I could list lots more of the things that Mike has done for the Club, like tournaments etc, but I don't think any amount of lists would do justice to this man. There are literally hundreds of players and parents that he has helped and advised over a good many years.

The Club records its Congratulations to Mike and wishes him good luck in Liverpool.

This is a very good advertisement for grassroots football and goes some way to recognising all the efforts of people behind the scenes throughout the country.

The BBC came to the club and interviewed several people, including the man himself. BBC footage taken at Stony Stratford FC, including interviews etc can be seen by clicking on the following link: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/7765278.stm>

The Spartan South Midlands Football League would like to add its own congratulations to Mike and wish him luck in Liverpool.