

**MOLTEN SPORTS**  
**SPARTAN SOUTH MIDLANDS FOOTBALL LEAGUE**

**CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER No.19**

*By Bill Scholes*

**Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2008**

*There were just the three hat tricks this weekend, one from each Division. In Division One, Dan Walker scored three for Stony Stratford Town against Tokyngton Manor, whilst Michael Laws hit three for AFC Dunstable against Kent Athletic in Division Two. I have saved the best till last as Charlie Strutton notched all four of Chalfont St. Peter's goals in their win over Cockfosters, but he then went one better on Tuesday night, scoring 5 of Chalfont's goals in their 10-1 win over Kentish Town.*

**PREMIER DIVISION**

There was not a lot of change at the top this week as **Harefield United** consolidated their place as the Christmas No.1 with a 3-1 win at home to **Tring Athletic**. The Hares went into an early two goal lead through Craig Totton and Adam Willis but they then popped an OG into their own net not long after the half time break to bring Tring back into the game. However, this being the season of goodwill, Tring returned the compliment twenty minutes later to restore the Hares two goal lead. **Langford** remain three points adrift in second place following their 3-1 home win over **Hanwell Town** but they have played two more games than Harefield. Luke Kenny gave Hanwell the lead after 24 minutes, but 60 seconds later new signing Ben L'Honre pulled Langford back level. Wes Byrne put Langford in front for the first time 9 minutes before half time, and Rob Groves completed the scoring with 18 minutes left. **Biggleswade Town** remain in hot pursuit, as Boss Hogg used to say, but they had to mount a second half revival before bringing visitors **Oxhey Jets** down to earth with a bump. The Jets flew into an early lead through Wayne Gladly, but the Waders second half fight-back began when Liam Folds netted with just 23 minutes left. Ten minutes later they were in front courtesy of Kevin Cooper, and Adam Bensaud's last minute goal was the icing on the cake. Just up the road, Town's neighbour's **Biggleswade United** were held to a 0-0 draw by bottom club **Holmer Green**, who would have moved that bit closer to their nearest rivals **Brimsdown Rovers**, except that Rovers won 2-0 at home to troubled **Berkhamsted Town** and moved themselves out of the bottom three. Brimsdown's goals both came in the second half, from Ben Andreos, a recent signing from Cockfosters, and Gerard Prenderville. **Cockfosters** now drop into the bottom two following their 4-1 defeat away at in form **Chalfont St. Peter**, who maintained their recent unbeaten record and moved up to ninth thanks to a four goal burst from Charlie Strutton – it could have been five but he missed a penalty early on. Dave Pigden gave Cockfosters the lead after 35 minutes before Strutton burst into life with his four goals – the first coming just before half time with the other three all in the second half. **Colney Heath** had to come from behind twice in order to salvage a point in their 2-2 draw at home against **Haringey Borough**. Karl Lewis gave Boro the lead after 28 minutes only for Aaron Clarke to level up the score ten minutes later. Immediately after the restart, Chris West put Boro back in front, but Carl Ashton saved the day with his equaliser with just over twenty minutes left. These two dropped points allowed **Kingsbury London Tigers** to leapfrog over the Heath and move up to 4<sup>th</sup> by dint of their 5-1 thrashing of **St. Margaretsbury**. Marco Tagbajumi and Edson Cata each scored a brace for the Tigers – there was also an OG and Kevin Ashwood notched the Bury's late consolation goal. **Aylesbury Vale** snatched a dramatic last minute winner in their home game with **Welwyn Garden City** to end up 3-2 victors and hand the visitors their first league defeat

under the new management team. The Citizens took an early lead when Fabio Valenti took advantage of a poor clearance from keeper Eddie Farmer to smash the ball back past the bemused defence from fully 40 yards. Welwyn continued to dominate the early stages, although Vale did create chances of their own. An excellent finish from Stuart Blackburne immediately after the restart seemed to put the Citizens firmly in the driving seat, but the Vale persevered and Justin Gordon reduced the deficit direct from a corner. Shortly afterwards it was level pegging when James Baxter thundered home a header from a corner. Corners turned out to be Welwyn's downfall as Vale's winner also came from a corner- Kyle Kilmartin heading powerfully home as the Welwyn defence switched off. **Kentish Town** managed to play at home this Saturday and probably wished they hadn't as they went down 4-0 to **Broxbourne Borough**. The visitors only led 1-0 at half time, thanks to Robert Tungatt's goal, but a brace from Ryan Wade, including a penalty, and a single from Tony Burke completed a comprehensive win. **Leverstock Green's** slump in form continued as they lost their third league match on the trot, 3-1 at home to **Hertford Town**. The first half was goalless, but Hertford took the lead on the 67<sup>th</sup> minute when Owen Beale shot past Green's debutant keeper Elliot Thomas. It got worse for the home side six minutes later when David Parkinson was sent off for two yellows, and four minutes later Andy Chapman doubled the Blues lead with a header. James Armstrong gave the Greens a glimmer of hope with seven minutes left, but Hertford sealed all three points in the last minute with a Glenn Draper penalty.

**DIVISION ONE**

No change in the top 8 placings, but **Royston Town** have now gone three points clear at the top, with two games in hand, after a 3-0 win away at **Buckingham Athletic**. First half goals from Josh Bronti and Tom Malins gave the Crows a 2-0 lead at half time which they could have doubled in the second half if they had taken their chances, but only Bronti capitalized on a defensive error to score his second and Royston's third. **Kings Langley** remained in second place, although they rather surprisingly lost 1-0 away to **Amersham Town** – the winning goal coming in the 58<sup>th</sup> minute from Denilson Vicente. A large crowd of 122 took advantage of **Hatfield Town's** Yuletide offer of free admission and were rewarded with a 4-0 win over visiting **Arlesey Athletic**. Rhys Lawrence opened the scoring in the first half, and then doubled it just after the break whilst two further goals came from Gary Coley and Dan Staples. **Stony Stratford Town** played hosts to **Tokyngton Manor** in this mid table clash and it was the home team that triumphed in a seven goal thriller courtesy of a hat trick by Dan Walker. On a firm pitch, both teams started well and it was an even opening 30 minutes. Stony went ahead from a fortunate penalty on 31 minutes and Dan Walker converted the kick off the keeper's body. This inspired the away team and they began to dominate the remainder of the half and got the deserved equalise on 41 minutes when Jesse Reynolds bundled the ball into the net after it had rebounded from the Stony crossbar. Indeed, Stony were pleased to hear the half time whistle and were lucky to be level at this stage. The second half was an exciting game of football as the teams went head to head. Stony took the lead when the impressive Walker rounded the keeper to slot the ball home on 53 minutes. But Tokyngton bounced back immediately when the Stony keeper parried a shot onto his own player and Ricky Foster could only watch as the ball flew into the net for an own goal on 56 minutes. Stony recovered the lead on 72 minutes when Dan Walker completed his hat trick by shooting the ball into the far corner of the net. Still Tokyngton fought back and equalised with a breakaway goal on 74 minutes when Jesse Reynolds scored from a right wing cross. The final and winning goal was a scrappy affair as Stuart Young bundled in a free kick at the far post on 77 minutes. It was a great match to watch with end to end football and well managed by the three officials – another good advert for South Midlands League football. It was honours even in the clash between challengers

**Bedford Town Reserves** and **New Bradwell St. Peter** – the game ending in a 1-1 draw. Nathaniel Peacock put Town Reserves into the lead early in the second half, but Mike O'Farrell's equaliser with just less than 20 minutes left ensured the points were shared. Next door at **Bedford FC**, the home side had a comfortable 4-0 win over bottom club **Brache Sparta**, goals coming from Ricky Lawrence (2), Phil Fisher and an OG. **Hoddesdon Town** produced an impressive performance for their last game of 2008 with a 3-0 win at home to **Cranfield United**. The Lilywhites started brightly and Frantisek Koutnik gave them the lead after just 12 minutes. They did however have to wait until the hour mark before Emeka Nwamadi doubled their lead, and Koutnik added his second with ten minutes left. **Sport London e Benfica** remains in the bottom three following their narrow 3-2 defeat at home to **Crawley Green**. The visitors got off to a flying start with a goal from Robbie O' Dell after just 60 seconds, SLB quickly equalised through Bruno Mondlane, only for Pete O'Donnell to restore Crawley's lead soon after. It remained that way until the second half, when Mondlane's second goal brought SLB level. Back came Crawley and with just over 20 minutes left, O'Dell's second clinched the win. **Amphill Town** put more daylight, and seven points, between themselves and their hosts **Sun Postal Sports** as they returned from the Watford based club with a 3-0 victory. There was another first minute goal – this time from James Ingram, before a brace from John Veitch rounded off the scoring.

#### DIVISION TWO

**Hadley** remain in top spot following their narrow 1-0 win at home to **Bucks Student Union**, with the all important goal coming in the 41<sup>st</sup> minute from Ricky Burrows. The fact that it was the University's all-day Xmas Party on the Friday before the game may have slightly blunted the Students edge! **AFC Dunstable's** six goal salvo against **Kent Athletic** enabled them to creep above The 61 FC into second place on goal difference, but they still remain a point behind Hadley. The hero of Dunstable's goalfest was Michael Laws with a hat trick, whilst Gareth Seeley, Felix Kyeremeh and Ross Morrissey were also on the score sheet. **The 61 FC**, with their excellent midweek 2-0 Challenge Trophy win away at Amersham under their belt, remain the danger with their 2-1 win away at **Mursley United** keeping them in close contention. Ryan Smith, who scored both goals against Amersham, was again on target for the Luton side as was Alex Bennett, whilst Ed Mills replied for Mursley. An early penalty strike from Courtney Massey put **Caddington** on their way to 3-2 win away at **Risborough Rangers** – Massey also scored the third goal, book ending Bernie Christie's 27<sup>th</sup> minute effort. An excellent goal from Robbie Morgan briefly gave Risboro hope, but they could only manage one other, from Andy Hird. The game between **Aston Clinton** and **Bletchley Town** finished all square in terms of number of goals at 1-1, but unfortunately not in terms of the number of players left on the pitch. Five red cards were issued, 4 of them to Bletchley Town, who despite finishing the game with only 7 players still managed to score the equaliser in the 85<sup>th</sup> minute. For the record, Peter Thorne put Aston Clinton in front, and Pete Gayton scored Bletchley's goal.

#### ANAGRAM RECORDS TROPHY – 2<sup>nd</sup> ROUND

Both **Padbury United** and **Winslow United** progressed through to the next round, and both by the same 3-1 scoreline. Winslow were at home to **Manford Way** and went through thanks to a brace from Chris Hill, including a penalty, and one from Alex Woodfine, whilst Padbury were away to **Wormley Rovers** and their goalscorers were Tyrone Bere, Dominic Lawless and Keiron Matthews.

#### FA Carlsberg NATIONAL LEAGUE SYSTEM CUP

The draw has just been made for the Preliminary Round of the 2009 / 2010 FA Carlsberg National League System Cup. There were a total of 44 entries this time for this excellent competition, which has the lure of entry into the UEFA Regions Cup at the end for the winners. Preliminary ties must be completed by 11 April 2009, with the First Round taking place in the early part of next season.

**NOW FOR THE GOOD BIT: The Spartan South Midlands League (Division Two) have been drawn away to.....The Jersey Football Competition.** Europe already! Our Representative Team Manager is Dick Everett, who I am sure will be now be receiving some excellent Christmas presents over the next few days. It's good news for Eric Harrison, who will now be able to meet up with Bergerac.

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

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**A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL CLUBS AND PLAYING AND NON PLAYING MEMBERS OF THE SPARTAN SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE , AND TO ALL OUR READERS, and especially all wives, girlfriends, husbands, boy friends, mistresses, in-betweens, SSMFL Committee members, club chairmen, club chairwomen, The Fabulous FleeRekkers, right backs, left backs, left footers, right footed left backs, left footed right backs, hat trick heroes, Cliff Bennett and the Rebel Rousers, chunky midfielders, hunky midfielders, the flat back four, the fat back four, sports editors, the sports media, Fats Domino, FA officials, County FA officials, league officials, Riders of the Purple Sage, general secretaries, The Eagles, match secretaries, fixture secretaries, registration secretaries, treasurers, Emmylou Harris, officials with email, officials without email (who won't read this), Geno Washington and the Ram Jam Band, referees secretaries, ex- referees secretaries, programme editors, Acker Bilk, groundsmen, happy groundsmen (not many),miserable groundsmen (lots), Lisa Snowden's legs, train spotters, ground hoppers, space hoppers, Anoraks, Sounds Incorporated, midfield destroyers, destroyed midfielders, The Flying Burrito Brothers, all referees, Gabriella Cilmi, referees who eat haggis, referees who work in advertising, young referees, referees who have progressed to higher levels, ex referees, plump referees, even plumper lino's, who ate all the pies referees, Commander Cody and the Lost Planet Airmen, all Seagulls supporters, Camilla Dallerup, Sexy Santas, tea makers, cake makers, hot pies and roast potato makers, Paul Scholes, midfielders with legs, midfielders with no legs, players with ear rings, players with nose rings, players with hair, players with no hair, The Clay Donner Combo, referees assessors, assessors with dogs, assessors with sticks (white), Alex Ferguson, lady physios, match sponsors, match ball sponsors, club sponsors, player sponsors, Jerry Lee Lewis, cool dudes, snappy dressers, all Sussex CCC supporters, Kristina Rhianoff, Old Bankers, young bankers, Chuck Berry, Bar maids, friendly bar maids, lovely bar maids, Nero and the Gladiators, quiet managers, not so quiet managers, very noisy managers, jack- in- a box managers, should -be- in- a box managers, ex managers, coaches, coaches with badges, coaches with I Spy badges, coaches with Blue Peter badges, coach drivers, Credence Clearwater Revival, all contributors to the newsletter, supportive supporters, supporters with attitude, Trevor, Kay and Jack, all supporters of Non League Football.....and not forgetting of course...The Champions of England, The Champions of Europe, and now The Champions of the World.**

**Enjoy the festive season. Bill Scholes- Editor**