

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

**NEWSLETTER No. 32**  
*By Bill Scholes*

**Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2009**

*Despite twelve teams scoring three goals or more, there was only one Hat trick this week, and that came from Hugh Spence of Cranfield United.*

**PREMIER DIVISION**

**Harefield United's** triumphant march to the league title has slowed down somewhat in the last couple of weeks, taking just 4 points from their last 9. **Welwyn Garden City** were the visitors on Saturday and they took all three points with a hard fought 1-0 win. The only goal of the game came after just 3 minutes when Adam Wallace crossed from the left and the Harefield defence parted like the Red Sea leaving Stuart Blackburne to slot home past keeper Charlie Miller. The Hares rallied and put the Citizens defence under pressure but giant keeper Darren Bonfield, ably assisted by two excellent centre backs kept them at bay. Harefield's two best chances came late in the first half when a header from a corner thudded against the post, and a minute later Vince Rispoli was on hand to head an Adam Willis shot off the line. Despite their good approach work, Harefield were unable to conjure up a clinical finish and as the game neared completion they were still hoping for a late equaliser as last week, but Welwyn held on. The Hares lead is still 13 points and realistically only Biggleswade Town and Chalfont St. Peter can harbour thoughts of catching them. It's an important week for Biggleswade Town as they are away to local rivals Langford on Thursday and then host Harefield two days later.

**Biggleswade Town** moved up into second place as they staged a second half recovery away at **Broxbourne Borough** to gain a 2-2 draw and a valuable point. Bradley Poole and Anthony Burke gave Boro a two goal lead at the break, but the Waders fought back in the second half with goals from Bobby Dance and Glen Lamacraft. **Hanwell Town** relinquished second place as they slipped to a 2-1 defeat away at **Colney Heath**, who were quickly out of the blocks with two goals in the first 6 minutes from Ant Muthusamy and Dean Parratt. Hanwell hung in and clawed their way back with a second half effort from Lee Clarke but Colney hung on for the win. A late winner four minutes from time saw **Chalfont St. Peter** scrape through a match they looked to have under control before a very controversial and hotly contested penalty allowed visitors **Langford** back into the game. The Saints got off to a great start, and they took the lead after only five minutes when Charlie Strutton headed in a cross by Gareth Paxton. The visitors then enjoyed a lot of possession, but the home side extended their lead ten minutes before half time when a cross from Adam Bunce was scrambled in by Terrell Lewis. The Saints were reduced to ten players two minutes into the second half when Gareth Paxton was sent off after allegedly handling a goalbound shot. Following further protests, Manager Danny Edwards was also dismissed before Rob Groves tucked the resultant spot kick away. Encouraged by their good fortune, Langford pressed forward and equalized through John Coley. A couple of substitutions by Chalfont saw them regain the initiative, and after Barry Brosnan and Mickey Swaysland had gone close, Alan Hedley emerged as the hero of the hour with the winner four minutes from the end.

**Tring Athletic** took their revenge for their midweek defeat at home to Biggleswade Town by winning 2-1 away at **Biggleswade United**. They went behind to a goal from Moses Oleyele after 36 minutes, but pulled level soon after through Tony Fields. The same player scored his

second, and the winner, just after the hour mark. **Brimsdown Rovers** and **Oxhey Jets** shared four goals, and the points, in a 2-2 draw at Goldsdown Road. Tim O'Mara gave the Jets an early lead, but Rovers then went ahead with goals from Jamie O'Donoghue and Rob Teppet before Jamie Arthur came up with a very late equaliser in added on time. Another 2-2 draw saw honours even at **Aylesbury Vale** where **Kentish Town** were the visitors. Town secured their second point on the trot and scored two goals for the first time since mid January. Vale were twice in the lead, firstly through John Bentley and then through Leon Gordon, but Kentish hit back with goals from Paul Butler and Roy Byron. **St. Margaretsbury** completed the league double over **Leverstock Green** with a 2-1 home win – John Barker gave Bury the lead from the penalty spot in the 59<sup>th</sup> minute, Dan Griggs volleyed Leverstock back in the game 8 minutes later, but Ricky Light got on the end of Andy Birnie's cross for the winner with 12 minutes remaining. Of the bottom four clubs, only **Holmer Green** managed to collect all three points – only their second victory since early September and their first of the season at home – in their 2-0 win over fellow strugglers **Haringey Borough**. Both goals came late in the second half – Steve Groves converting a Danny Boyle cross for the first after 72 minutes and Dean Allen adding the second with a header just before the end. **Cockfosters** came away pointless from their visit to **Kingsbury London Tigers** who won 3-0 with goals from Edson Cata, Marco Tagbajumi and Wadah Ahmidi. Holmer are 5 points adrift at the bottom, but only one point now separates Kentish Town, Haringey Boro and Cockfosters.

**DIVISION ONE**

Another Saturday without a game for Royston Town but they still lead the table by 5 points with three games in hand over second placed **Kings Langley** who could only manage a 0-0 draw at home to **Bedford**. With two wins in 5 days, **Hatfield Town** have moved up to third, their latest win being 4-2 at home to **Amptill Town**. The visitors were twice in the lead through Lee Hayward and Jamie Ingram before Rhys Lawrence and Jason Beck pulled Hatfield back level before half time. A second goal from Beck and one from Daryl Smith saw Hatfield safely home. **Bedford Town Reserves** slipped back into fourth place as they went down 3-0 at home to **Amersham Town**, for whom Jude Eboji scored the opener and David Butler added a brace to complete the scoring. **Hoddesdon Town** kept up the pressure with a comfortable 4-0 win away at **Arlesey Athletic**, thanks to a brace of penalties from Lee Tombs and singles from Aaron Tourlamain and Jason Sorial, whilst **New Bradwell St. Peter** remain hot on their heels following their 2-1 win away at **Sport London e Benfica**. They left it very late however before Deane Robb scored the winner in the very last minute. Bradwell took the lead through David Cole, but Yahya Younis pulled SLB back level in the 65<sup>th</sup> minute. **Stony Stratford Town** welcomed **Harpenden Town** to Ostlers Lane for this mid table clash which had that end of season feel about it. Harpenden started with bodies on the pitch, but defensive brains still in the dressing room as twice they gifted chances to Stony, but each time the ball hit a post and bounced clear. However, Harpenden quickly settled and saw an early chance headed off the Stony goal line. The visitors had two more excellent opportunities, but when through on goal the forwards failed to trouble the Stony keeper. The second half became a dour struggle for both sides and the watching crowd wondered if they were going to see a goal all afternoon. Just when it seemed a stonewall certainty no score draw, Harpenden bundled the ball over the Stony line to score on 70 minutes through Will Bates. Another goal followed shortly afterwards when Chris Gregory somehow squeezed the ball into the net from an acute angle at the far post on 77 minutes. Stony had no real answer although Dan Walker should have done better with a shot that cleared the bar. There was a bizarre end to the match as in the dying seconds Harpenden broke clear to hit the Stony post with one shot and then to hit the other post with a follow up shot. It was a nice shirtsleeves afternoon to watch a game; unfortunately the match lacked the quality of the good weather. Not for the first time, the highest score of the day was recorded at

**Brache Sparta** where visitors **Cranfield United** romped to a 7-0 victory over their struggling hosts. Hugh Spence netted a hat trick, Tom Resch got a pair, and Paul Stokes and Stuart Reynolds came up with one apiece. **London Colney** must have been hugely satisfied with their 3-2 home win over **Winslow United**, as they were two goals down after just 13 minutes courtesy of Paul Talbot and Luke Bitmead. Greg Shaw did reduce the deficit just before the half hour mark but Winslow remained in the driving seat until two late goals from Mark Paradise and Ian Cooper made Colney's day. Two first half goals from Jesse Reynolds was enough to give **Tokington Manor** a 2-1 win away at **Crawley Green** – James Potter getting Crawley's sole reply after 60 minutes. **Buckingham Athletic** and **Sun Postal Sports** edged a little further away from the relegation zone after gaining a point each in their 1-1 draw at Watford. The game seemed destined for a goalless draw until Gavin Hansell put Athletic ahead with just 7 minutes left. It was not the end of the shift for Postal however as they hit back with the equaliser through Ben Poulton four minutes later.

## DIVISION TWO

With leaders Hadley not playing, **The 61 FC** took the opportunity to go top by three points, thanks to their 3-0 win away at **Wodson Park**. A second half brace from Ryan Smith followed Matt Gibbs' early opener. **AFC Dunstable** remain in third place but have opened the gap between themselves and Wodson Park to six points as they beat **Padbury United** 4-2 at home. With just 7 minutes left, Dunstable were holding onto a slender 2-1 lead, but two goals from Rob Banister and Darren Edwards made them safe, although there was still time for Andre Brown to score a late consolation for the visitors. **Bucks Student Union** and **Tring Corinthians** are now hot on the heels of Wodson Park, and the Students had an emphatic 4-0 win at home to **Caddington** with first half goals from Gerald Kelly and Chris Cox and second half goals from Daddy Moses and Adam Burch. **Tring Corinthians** were away to bottom club **Bletchley Town** and they returned with a 5-2 win under their belts. After 59 minutes it was two apiece, but three further goals from Corry secured the win. Half time in the game between **Pitstone & Ivinghoe** and **Mursley United** was reached without a goal in sight, but in the second half, the gates opened and six goals were scored – three for each side. Jakus Kasprzyk paved the way with a goal immediately after the restart for Mursley, but Lawrence Bunker quickly equalised before Martin Shaw and Steve Williams put Mursley 3-1 up. Pitstone fought back and two goals in the last 15 minutes from Ross Adams and Mark Allan made the final score 3-3. **Kent Athletic** beat **Markyate** 2-0 with both goals, one in each half, coming from Angus Stewart whilst a solitary goal from Tom Burton was enough for **Aston Clinton** to secure a 1-0 win over **Old Bradwell United**. The game between **Risborough Rangers** and **Totternhoe** finished in a 0-0 draw.

## RESERVE CHALLENGE TROPHY – SEMI FINALS

**Royston Town** had a narrow 1-0 home win over **The 61 FC**, Jamie Morris scoring direct from a free kick in the second half, and they will now meet St. **Margaretsbury**, who had to come from behind to beat **Leverstock Green** 4-1, in the Final.

## MOLTEN SPORTS TEAM OF THE MONTH – FEBRUARY

The good burghers and the Town Crier of Tring Town will be overjoyed with the news that both the town clubs - Tring Athletic and Tring Corinthians - won their respective Divisional Awards for the month of February. Congratulations to both clubs, and also to Buckingham Athletic who won the Division One Award.

Premier Division: **Tring Athletic**

Division One: **Buckingham Athletic**

Division Two: **Tring Corinthians**

## F.A. Carlsberg VASE - SEMI FINAL

This Saturday sees the 1<sup>st</sup> leg of the FA Vase Semi Final. **Chalfont St. Peter** are at home to **Glossop North End** and we wish Danny Edwards and his team the very best of luck in their attempt to reach the Wembley Final. The game is not all-ticket, but a big crowd is expected, so if you are planning to attend, get there early is the advice. Kick off is definitely 3.00. The Away Tie at Glossop on Sat 4 April is definitely All-Ticket, so if you are planning to go make sure you book a ticket pronto.

## DANNY HUGHES – CHALFONT ST. PETER

Whilst on the subject of Chalfont's run in the FA Vase, it should be remembered that one young player – 19 year old Danny Hughes - has missed out on the recent success due to breaking his leg against Harefield in a League match recently. However the club had not forgotten him and held a Race Night for him last Saturday and I am very pleased to reproduce his thank you letter to the Club.

*"I know It's probably really short notice but I'm not sure if you were aware but the club held a race night for me last night and raised £1000 for me which I'm very grateful for so I was hoping if you could put a message in for me thanking Chairman Dennis Mair and his family for arranging the night and to Manager Danny Edwards and all the boys for raising the money and basically a big thank you to everyone involved at the club for their support since I've broken my leg. I would really appreciate it if you could make this possible as I would like to show everyone how grateful I am.*

*Thanks Daniel "*

An excellent effort from all at Chalfont, and good to know that compassion really does exist in football.

## F.A. Carlsberg NATIONAL LEAGUE SYSTEM CUP – PRELIMINARY ROUND

This Saturday also sees the Spartan South Midland Football League (Division Two) Representative XI get an early taste of Europe as they visit the Channel Islands to take on the Jersey Football Combination XI and we would like to wish Manager Richard Everett and his team the best of luck on foreign soil!

## FOR SALE - COMPLETE PITCH POST & RAIL

Due to the loss of the complete Chalfont Campus –sold for development by Bucks University, **Bucks Student Union** are offering their metal Post & Rail pitch surrounds for sale. Brand new at the start of this season – asking price is £3000, or in Ebay vocabulary Best Offer. For further information please contact Daniel Springett at [bucks1986@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:bucks1986@hotmail.co.uk) . This does not spell the end for Bucks Students, however, as they have just concluded a 3-year ground share agreement with Amersham Town and will be playing there from next season. Meanwhile Bucks University are pressing ahead with their plans for a new mega sports complex, in conjunction with Wycombe Wanderers and London Wasps.....but it will not happen overnight.

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

**Bill Scholes Tel No. 01494 713867 Email: [billscholes@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:billscholes@hotmail.co.uk)**