

MOLTEN SPORTS
SPARTAN SOUTH MIDLANDS FOOTBALL LEAGUE

NEWSLETTER No. 33
By Bill Scholes

Saturday 28th March 2009

Just the one hat trick this week, and it's that man Craig Hammond again with 4 goals for Royston Town in their 7-1 romp at home to Arlesey Athletic. Hammond's four goals all came in the first half and he was taken off at half time to save Arlesey from further punishment!

FA Carlsberg VASE – SEMI FINAL 1st Leg
Chalfont St. Peter 3 Glossop North End 3

Cup fever arrived at the small homely village of **Chalfont St. Peter** on Saturday as the home side entertained **Glossop North End** in the 1st Leg of the Semi Final. Around 400 visitors from the Peak District descended on the village which was awash with blue & white banner, flags, pixie hats and painted faces – a sight to behold and not one that the locals would have seen before! A large crowd of nearly 1200, the large majority of whom would never have seen Chalfont play before, gathered in the ground to see Chalfont attempt to reach Wembley for the first time in their history. Sadly they were unable to witness a victory but it is all to play for in the 2nd leg up in Derbyshire this Saturday as it ended 3-3. Glossop would probably be the happier of the two teams, as they fought back from a 3-1 deficit as the Saints were unable to hold on to their advantage despite twice being two goals in front. The home side took the lead midway through the first half when Charlie Strutton forced the ball home at the third attempt following a goalmouth scramble. Ten minutes later skipper John Carroll added a second when Glossop's keeper could only push a vicious in swinging corner from Ben Stack on to the crossbar and Carroll was on hand to force the ball over the line... Unfortunately the visitors reduced the arrears five minutes from the break when Jason Gorton rose unchallenged to power home a header from a corner. Barry Brosnan converted a cross by Paxton four minutes into the second half to restore the Saints two goal lead but several substitutions from Glossop changed the game, - a defensive error in the 73rd minute allowed Glossop's leading scorer Dave Hodges to run through and lift the ball over Saints custodian Mark Oliver, and six minutes later Tom Bailey nipped in front of Oliver to level the scores. Both sides had chances to win the game, but a draw was probably a fair result, and the second leg promises to be equally exciting. Let's hope that the Saints can turn the town of Glossop into a sea of Green and Red this Saturday and they travel up to the Peak District with all our best wishes for the win that will cement their place in history as the first SSMFL club to appear at the new Wembley. As a footnote to the game, it was a pleasure to witness a presentation after the game by Chalfont St. Peter to Jill Menghetti, long standing Sports Editor of the Bucks Advertiser, who relinquishes the post at the end of this month. Jill was a good friend to a number of local football and cricket clubs, and will be sadly missed.

F.A. VASE 2nd LEG at GLOSSOP NORTH END

This game is All Ticket, but Chalfont St. Peter do have some tickets still available – plus places on the Coaches going up to the game. Cost of the coach will be around £10-£15 - great value for an excellent day out and cheering on the Saints to Wembley. If interested, please ring Chalfont chairman Denis Mair on 01753 885797. **COME ON YOU SAINTS!**

PREMIER DIVISION

The race for the League title, and with it the opportunity for promotion to the next level, was blown wide open as leaders **Harefield United** were beaten 3-0 away at **Biggleswade Town**, who move back up to second place as a consequence. Importantly however it puts Biggleswade just seven points behind Harefield with three games in hand. The leaders have now only taken four points from their last four games, and in front of the leagues biggest crowd of the day (151) they fell behind in the 36th minute when Bobby Dance produced a piece of magic to lob keeper Charlie Miller and give the Waders a first half lead. Dance had a hand in the Town's second on 70 minutes when his ball into the box following a free kick was volleyed home by Jack Weeden. It was Weeden again five minutes from time when a throw-in down the left was played into Harefield's six yard box where Dan Heron, laid the ball back for Weeden to pick his spot. There was still time left for the Hares to be reduced to 10 men when Adam Willis was sent off late in the game. This result has made for a potentially very exciting climax to the season but despite their loss of form at this crucial time, Harefield are still in the driving seat – points in the bag – and of course Chalfont St. Peter, who have the games in hand, still have to visit Biggleswade Town. **Hanwell Town** remain in third place, despite losing 3-2 to **Kingsbury London Tigers**, who now move level on points with Hanwell but with an inferior goal difference. Hanwell took an early lead through Luke Kenny, but by half time the Tigers had roared into a 3-1 lead, thanks to goals from Tarik Ellekhlisi (pen), Marco Tagbajumi and Edson Cata. David Diedhiou replied for Hanwell just before the end, but it was a case of too little too late. The battle for 6th place was won by **Broxbourne Borough** who just edged out visitors **Leverstock Green** by 3-2. David Parkinson's 16th minute opener for Leverstock only lasted two minutes before Sam Rough equalised, and then Nicky Marsh and Ryan Wade went on to give Boro a two goal cushion before Matt Wardle pulled one back for the visitors, but again a case of too little too late. At the start of 2009 **Langford** were sitting in second place in the table, but since then they have only won 2 out of their 14 games played this year, and following Saturday's 2-1 defeat at home to **St. Margaretsbury** they have now dropped into the bottom half of the table. They did take the lead early in the second half through Wes Byrne, but that lead only lasted a minute before Kevin Ashwood equalised, and a John Barker penalty with ten minutes to go sealed their fate. **Welwyn Garden City** recovered from their midweek defeat at Hertford Town to beat **Kentish Town** 4-1 away at Copthall Stadium. Adam Wallace, Richard Morton and Tom Lewis put the Citizens three up before a Paul Butler penalty reduced the deficit, but Welwyn restored the three goal lead with an OG just before the end. **Haringey Borough**, under new management, climbed above Cockfosters and out of the bottom three with a 2-0 win at home to **Biggleswade United** – a goal in each half from Paul Abbott and Lasalle Simon earning the points. **Cockfosters** remain in the danger area following their 2-1 defeat away at **Tring Athletic** – they did actually score two of the three goals but unfortunately one was in the wrong net. That was the opener and was followed by a goal from Vinnie Iannone to give Athletic a two goal lead and a late Danny Curbelo goal came too late to make a difference to the result. **Holmer Green** remain bottom following their 2-0 defeat away at **Colney Heath**, for whom Dean Parratt scored both - his second from the penalty spot. The games between **Hertford Town** and **Brimsdown Rovers** and **Oxhey Jets** and **Aylesbury Vale** both finished in 0-0 draws

DIVISION ONE

Royston Town Manager Paul Attfield decided to give a few players on the fringe of his squad a run out with Graham Tibbals, Jamie Morris and Mark Roach all getting ninety minutes in their 7-1 win at home to **Arlesey Athletic**. It didn't take long for the Crows to take the lead with Craig Hammond finding himself with a free header from a corner two minutes in. Hammond got his second on twelve minutes when he rounded the keeper and seven minutes later completed his hat trick. Jamie Morris scored a trade mark free kick midway through the half and Hammond got his fourth just before half time when an Arlesey defender missed the ball and Hammond rocketed the ball into the back of the net via the cross bar. At half time Hammond and David Cain were replaced with Mondays match

against Kings Langley in mind. Arlesey were first to score in the second half with a break away goal early on. Graham Tibbals got his name on the score sheet when he finished from close range and Morris completed the scoring when he cut inside and put the ball through the keeper's legs. The lead over **Kings Langley**, who won 1-0 at **Amphill Town**, remained at 8 points but on Monday night that lead was stretched to 11 points as **Royston** came out 2-1 winners against **Kings Langley**. A crowd of 100 saw Craig Hammond miss a sitter in the first minute, but he redeemed himself later as he gave the Crows the lead with a fierce shot into the top corner. Royston could have increased their lead but they were guilty of over elaboration in front of goal, and were nearly made to pay when Jack Johnson brought the home side level. A game that was bubbling under came to life in the 80th minute when Royston were awarded a penalty for a clear handball. The culprit Marc Burcham clearly disagreed with the referee and was asked to leave the pitch following his comments. Hammond duly despatched the penalty to put the Crows back in front, a lead that that they held until the end. Sadly at the end of the game, respect for the officials from the home side was not in evidence. Hatfield Town, although not in action on Saturday, must now be eyeing second spot. **Bedford Town Reserves** eschewed the chance to go above Hatfield as they rather surprisingly lost 2-0 at home to second from bottom **Sport London e Benfica**; the latter's second win in three games. Both goals, in the second half, came from Dan Burnett – Williams. Unfortunately for SLB, the team immediately above them, **Buckingham Athletic**, also tasted victory, beating **Tokyngton Manor 2-1** – a late winner from Mikey McCauley sealing the points. **Hoddesdon Town** moved up into 5th place, leapfrogging both Amersham and New Bradwell, following their 1-0 win at home to **Brache Sparta**. They left it late however, the goal, from Steve Magona, not coming until 7 minutes from the end. **Amersham Town** needed a penalty from Denilson Vicente to grab a share of the spoils in their 1-1 draw at home to **London Colney** – Paul Danslow giving Colney the lead, **New Bradwell St. Peter** went down 2-0 at home to **Cranfield United**, Christian Lester and Stuart Reynolds getting the all important goals. It took a late penalty from Travis Joseph, his second goal of the game, to see **Bedford** narrowly home 3-2 against visitors **Stony Stratford Town**, and **Harpenden Town** beat **Sun Postal Sports** 3-0 helped by a brace from Chris Gregory.

DIVISION TWO

The 61FC who were otherwise engaged masquerading as the SSMFL Representative side in Jersey lost their top spot to **Hadley** who returned to the summit following their narrow 1-0 win at home to **Risborough Rangers** – Steve Gray scoring the goal after 72 minutes. **AFC Dunstable** remain third following their 5-2 win away at **Aston Clinton**. Darren Edwards and Richard Harker both scored a brace and Felix Kyeremeh got the other. **Wodson Park's** wobble continued as they lost 3-1 away at **Padbury United**, for whom Dominic Lawless contributed a couple, but neither Bucks Students or Tring Corinthians were able to take advantage as they both lost themselves. **Tring Corinthians** surprisingly lost 4-1 away at bottom club **Bletchley Town** –goals from Steve Keane (2), Paul Thorpe and Pete Gayton whilst two goals from Stefan Tracey and Gary Capehorn enabled second from bottom **Totternhoe** to beat **Bucks Students Union** 2-1. **Old Bradwell United** made it a good day for the bottom three clubs as they also tasted victory with a 2-1 win at home to **Caddington**, thanks to goals from Kenny Hollis and David Vincent. A brace from Martyn Shaw and one from Steve Williams was all **Mursley United** required to run out 3-0 winners away at **Markyate**.

ANAGRAM RECORDS TROPHY – SEMI FINAL

There will be no SSMFL presence in the Final of this competition as **Winslow United** narrowly lost 1-0 to a 28th minute goal against **Takeley**, who are currently in second place in the Essex Senior League.

EUROPEAN FORAY ENDED BY JERSEY CREAM

The Spartan South Midlands foray into Europe is over for another year. The Division Two side chosen to represent the League in the FA Carlsberg National League System Cup lost their Preliminary Round match 2-0 to the Jersey Football Combination at the impressive Springfield Stadium in the island capital of St Helier. The vast majority of the side came from The 61FC (Luton) who are having a successful season under their manager Richard Everitt but leading the line was Lawrence Bunker, the Pitstone & Ivinghoe striker who has claimed 39 goals in just 18 games this season. His was a feat highlighted in the *Jersey Evening Post* on the eve of the game, leading to the Jersey side - many of whom were clearly above Step 7 level - being instructed to close him down at every opportunity. Starting at an electric pace, Jersey were given the boost of a 7th minute headed goal by Chris Andrews but the Spartan South Midlands team began to settle and created a number of opportunities to level things up before the interval. Ryan Smith, Ricky Clark and Matthew Terry all came close. In the second half, attacking play was restricted by a close-marking defence and the visitors chances of nipping an equalizer were dashed when they conceded a soft penalty converted by Jack Cannon on 69 minutes. Afterwards in an interview with BBC Radio, Richard Everitt praised the wholehearted efforts of his team who certainly didn't disgrace themselves but were just not able to carve out enough chances in the second half. The players were a credit to the League and the team was applauded from the field by the crowd of 116 enjoying a day in the spring sunshine. Afterwards, they all enjoyed the hospitality of the Jersey FA with the League's Referees Appointments Secretary Mick Ewen, indulging in all that the appropriately named Flag and Whistle Bar had to offer. Thankfully, he got back to the bus in time ... just as others were contemplating calling in Bergerac for another missing person mystery!

MOLTEN RENEWS SPONSORSHIP OF THE S.S.M.F.L.

Molten, the world's largest manufacturer of footballs, has renewed its sponsorship of the Molten Spartan South Midlands Football League. Molten is to remain as sponsor of the league for the next three seasons commencing August 2009 up to May 2012 and it will continue to be known as the Molten Spartan South Midlands Football League. The sponsorship includes a substantial supply of the brand new, FIFA Approved, Molten VG-5000 AW, orange ball which is to become the league's official ball for all Divisions. In addition, each month, Molten will continue their awards to the league's Team of the Month. Designed specifically for UK winters, the new Molten VG-5000 AW has been manufactured using Molten's innovative cross fusion bonding technique, which eliminates the traditional hand-stitching method used by all other balls. Molten's ground-breaking technology means that the ball does not absorb water in wet conditions and therefore its weight and shape remain constant. In addition, the absence of hand-stitched seams means that mud does not adhere to the ball, making for a perfectly round ball. Its bright orange colour with the familiar Molten ACENTEC logo and design make it a highly visible and stylish looking ball. Pat Burns, chairman of the Molten Spartan South Midlands Football League, added: "We are very pleased Molten has agreed to renew its sponsorship of the League. The clubs were delighted with the Molten ACENTEC Vantaggio balls we have been playing with for the past three years and it was an overwhelming decision by the clubs to accept Molten's renewed sponsorship offer. We are really looking forward to playing with the new Molten ball." Bob Hope, chairman of Molten Sports, commented: "The Spartan South Midland League was Molten's first sponsorship in UK football and we are looking forward to a successful second term with the League. We think the new Molten VG-5000 is going to be a real winner. Designed for UK winters, the ball does not absorb water in wet weather neither does mud stick to the seams as in other balls, resulting in a perfectly round ball which does not gain weight."

NEW MANAGER AT HARINGEY BOROUGH

Tom Loizou has been installed in the hot seat at Haringey Borough following the parting of the ways with Allan Fenn. It was disappointing for Fenn, whose achievement in guiding Boro back to Premier Division status at the first attempt following relegation at the end of season 2006/07 while also winning the First Division knock-out Cup will ensure his time at the club is remembered as a successful one. Loizou is a UEFA `A` Licence holder and brings to the club a wealth of experience gained over a long period in management, mostly at a higher level. Following a spell as youth and reserve team manager at Leyton Orient, he was caretaker-manager of first-team at Brisbane Road for a while and director of their Centre of Excellence before moving on to Crown & Manor to run their International Soccer Academy. Managerial spells at Cheshunt, Enfield, Leyton and finally a second spell at Cheshunt when they were a Level 3 club followed. He brings with him trusted lieutenants in Charlie Douse and Paul McGiven, who will be assistant-managers with Douse also taking the role of first-team scout and McGiven that of first-team coach.

PROGRAMME OF THE YEAR AWARDS

The "Programme Monthly" annual Awards were released on Monday and congratulations go to **Hoddesdon Town, Chalfont St. Peter and Crawley Green** who finished in the top three places in the Spartan South Midlands League section. Chalfont won the Premier Award, Hoddesdon won Division One and **Padbury United** won Division Two. The complete top ten is listed below:

Position	Team	Points
1	Hoddesdon Town	421
2	Chalfont St Peter	368
3	Crawley Green	341
4	Cockfosters	296
5	Leverstock Green	247
6	Broxbourne Borough	239
7	Hanwell Town	216
8	Tring Athletic	210
9	Royston Town	198.5
10	Kentish Town	175

MIKE JUDD – STONY STRATFORD TOWN F.C.

Remember Mike Judd? He won the Regional BBC Look East "Unsung Hero Award" just before Christmas. He has now added to his collection with a "Service to Sport Award" which he collected at the Sport Milton Keynes Sports Achiever of the Year 2008 ceremony last week. Mike has been involved in a wide variety of activities for the whole community over a good many years and has helped literally hundreds of people in all walks of life. His zest for life is an inspiration to everybody locally and is never to busy to help anybody who needs it. Congratulations Mike, everyone at Stony Stratford FC, and the SSMFL, is extremely proud of you and appreciates all you do for the club.

Many thanks to the Mad Scotsman, **Bill Hamilton**, for his erudite report of the Jersey trip

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

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