

MOLTEN SPORTS SPARTAN SOUTH MIDLANDS FOOTBALL LEAGUE

NEWSLETTER No. 1 By Bill Scholes

Week ending 14th August 2009

Here we go again – new season, new hopes, new aspirations, new managers, new players and even new balls – orange of course. For me personally, August is probably the worst month of the year, as my two favourite sports are now almost totally overlapping. Normally in the winter I am a football man, and during the summer (if that's the right word) I concentrate on cricket. August gives me an identity crisis and it has been getting to the stage over the last few weeks that when I wake up in the morning I'm not sure whether to put on my box or my jock strap! This is really a long winded way of apologizing in advance if some editions of this Newsletter are a bit late in arriving over the next month or so – a lot will depend on the progress of Sussex and Bucks over the next month.

THE MANAGERIAL MERRY-GO-ROUND!

There have been changes at **Leverstock Green**, where Chairman Bill Dawes stood down at the AGM and has been replaced by Kate Binns. On the playing front Mick Vipond was not retained as Manager at the end of last season, and he was replaced, for a month or so, by Colin Jones as manager and Biff Huber as coach – both having stepped up from the Reserves. However, that pairing didn't seem to work out, and they in turn have been replaced by Steve Heath, who resigned as manager of Kings Langley. His coaching staff has followed him up the road, as have a number of his old players. **Kings Langley** moved swiftly to replace Heath with Paul Hobbs, who had been in charge of Herts County League side Bovingdon. There have been big changes over in Ducks land where Aylesbury Vale F.C is no more and has been replaced by **Aylesbury F.C.** who will play at Haywood Way. The new Chairman of the club is Roger Dance, who did the same job at Dunstable Town a couple of seasons ago, whilst Jon Franklin, ex Aylesbury Vale and Aylesbury Utd manager, comes in as Director of Football. Mark Eaton, who was manager at Aylesbury Utd during the latter half of last season, has switched allegiance and will be the new manager of Aylesbury F.C. Aylesbury Utd meanwhile remain homeless and have switched their groundshare arrangements to from Chesham to Leighton Town. Martin Stone, the ex-Chalfont Wasps manager took over from Eaton as manager during the close season, but he resigned two weeks ago, and Byron Walton, the ex...ex...ex... is currently caretaking the job. Just up the road, Ross Parret, who guided **Tring Corinthians** to fourth place in Division Two, has left to become Assistant Manager to Kerthney Cartey at Bracknell Town, and has been replaced by Ian Richardson, the ex-Berkhamsted Town manager. Completing the circle in this area, the new manager at the newly constituted Berkhamsted FC is..... you've guessed it, Mick Vipond, who has taken a number of his ex Leverstock Green players with him. Last season's dynamic management duo of Del

Deanus and Steve Newing at **Welwyn Garden City** have once again packed up their tent and gone off to manage Enfield in Ryman Division One. Deanus and Newing were in charge of Edgware Town when they won the SSMFL Premier Division in 2006/07, but following Edgware's demise they moved on to manage Leyton in Ryman Div One, before arriving at Welwyn G. C. half way through last season. The new man in charge at WGC is Paul Faulkner, who was in charge of Sun Sports reserve team last year. **St. Margaretsbury FC** has parted company with manager Lee Judges and expect to announce a new boss within days. **Biggleswade United** have appointed Dave Elkin as their new First Team manager, and their new 160-seater stand and terracing now sit proudly within the fully enclosed ground at Second Meadow. **Dunstable Town**, relegated from the Southern League, parted company with their joint bosses Mike Locke and Wayne Roff at the end of last season, and have appointed ex-boss Darren Feighery to lead them in their new campaign in the SSMFL. Feighery had two successful seasons at Creasey Park, winning the Bedfordshire Senior and Premier Cups in 2006/07. The other relegated club to rejoin us is **Hillingdon Borough** after a 3 year spell at Step 4. Their promotion winning manager Steve Ringrose has moved on to North Greenford, and Steve Hale is now the man in the hot seat. Following a season of turmoil, **Kentish Town** have appointed Rakatahar Hudson as their new manager for the forthcoming season and he has already pledged to give the club a fresh start. The 23-year-old FA qualified coach was brought in from north London neighbours **Haringey Borough**, where he was head of youth development as well as managing the Under 18 side. Borough's new(ish) manager is ex-Cheshunt man, Tom Loizou. **Amersham Town** parted company with their management team of Dale Welch, Dean Townsend and Terry Welch by mutual consent, and installed local man Simon Damery as the new manager as they attempt to build a more community based club. **Holmer Green** start the new season in Division One, after 11 years in the Premier, with a new boss – Chris Allen replacing Jason Weinrabe. Brache Sparta has changed its name, as well as their manager – the new name is **Brache Sparta Community FC** and the new manager is Mark Teeling. The next two are not SSMFL clubs, but there are strong links. Jamie Jarvis, who managed **Beaconsfield SYCOB** to the SSMFL Premier Division title two seasons ago, and took them to a play off place last season, has now moved on to be in charge of near neighbours **Burnham**. He will be accompanied by SYCOB'S long standing coach, Peter Scott and a number of SYCOB players. There is also a new Chairman at Burnham – ex Sussex and Middlesex cricketer, and currently First Class umpire, Ian Gould, (officiating in the 20/20 Finals at Edgbaston on Saturday) who has been looking after the pitch at Burnham. Bob Breen, who was Chairman at Beaconsfield for the last few years, has also moved down the road to join the Burnham Board. Moving in to the Beaconsfield hot seat is Joe Mitchell, who has been in charge of **AFC Hayes** (Brook House in old money) for the last few years, and he has brought many of his players with him. Moving in to replace Mitchell at AFC Hayes is ex Amersham Town manager Dale Welch.

PREMIER DIVISION

After the first week, four clubs have a Played 2, Won 2 record and sit atop the table. They are **Langford**, newly relegated **Hillingdon Borough**, newly promoted **Hatfield Town** and **Colney Heath**. Highest scorers to date are **Tring Athletic**, who had a comprehensive 8-0 win at home to **Kentish Town**, following that up with two against **Harefield United**,

whilst the highest scoring Assessor so far is Mike Coventry, who has overseen the 8-0 at Tring and Hillingdon Boro's 4-3 win away at **Hanwell Town**. Other clubs tipped for success this season, and yet to taste defeat, include newly promoted **Royston Town**, newly relegated **Dunstable Town**, last years runners up Harefield Utd, and newly constituted **Aylesbury FC**, who look remarkably like last season's Aylesbury Utd. Much hard work has gone on down at Haywood Way during the summer to spruce up the ground as they look for promotion to the Zamoretto (!) League. Biggleswade United's ground is now fully enclosed with new fencing and stand on the cricket ground side, and **Leverstock Green's** new seated stand is now in place on the side opposite the clubhouse. Pictures of both these new developments can be found on the respective club's web sites. There are two clubs yet to register a point – surprisingly **Chalfont St. Peter** and **Hertford Town**.

DIVISION ONE

Again there are 4 clubs with a Played 2 , Won 2 record – **Buckingham Athletic, Crawley Green, New Bradwell St. Peter** and newly promoted **Hadley**, whilst **Holmer Green** won their first game back in Division One, but the sad demise of **Winslow United** means that it is their only game played so far. Four clubs have yet to trouble the scorer – **Amersham Town, AFC Dunstable, Brache Sparta Community** and **Sport London e Benfica**.

DIVISION TWO

News next week

BIGGLESWADE UNITED

This season Biggleswade United are to follow the example of Aston Villa (ACORNS) and Barcelona (UNICEF) in moving away from kit sponsorship by local businesses to working in partnership with two charities, one local and one national, to promote the charities' work and to support them in raising awareness of their charitable aims. On their shirts Biggleswade United will promote local charity PICU (the Paediatric Intensive Care Unit at Addenbrooke's Hospital). The PICU is an eight-bed ward caring for sick children who need very close observation from doctors, nurses and other members of the PICU team. Through raising awareness of the Unit the club will help to support them in raising £34,000 to purchase an item of life saving equipment. The second and national charity is a men's cancer charity called Orchid. It was formed in 1996 by a former testicular cancer patient and is the only UK registered charity to focus entirely on the male-specific cancers; prostate, penile and testicular. Orchid will be promoted on the rear of the club's shorts with the club's adopted strap line "Good Balls Come First". Websites for each of the Charities can be found at: www.cuh.org.uk/addenbrookes/patients/ward_information/picu
www.orchid-cancer.org.uk

PREMIER DIVISION CUP – NEW SPONSOR

We are very grateful to Stuart Latham - a Vice president at Chalfont St. Peter – who has kindly agreed to sponsor the Premier Division Cup in memory of his late father Dudley Latham. The Cup will be known this season as "The Dudley Latham Memorial Cup sponsored by S&T Sales and Marketing"

SSMFL HON AUDITOR – MALCOLM FOXLEY

It is with great regret that we have to announce the death of Malcolm Foxley, the Hon Auditor of the SSMFL for the past 7 years. Malcolm was the League's Auditor from 2002/3season taking over from Alan Meek. He was taken ill on Friday 24th July whilst on holiday with his wife and died on Monday 27th July in Norwich Hospital. The funeral took place at St Margarets Church in Luton on Friday 7th August and was attended by Tony Forrester on behalf of the League. A regular golfing colleague of Pat Burns, the League Chairman, he will be greatly missed by all.

The next edition will hopefully be out in sometime this week – if I have missed any news of management changes, then please let me know and we will include in future editions.

Finally, if your copy of the Newsletter arrives with red wine stains on it, it's probably because I may be spilling a drop or two as I watch the Sussex Sharks stuff the Somerset whatsits in the 20 /20 Finals.

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