

MOLTEN SPORTS
SPARTAN SOUTH MIDLANDS FOOTBALL LEAGUE

NEWSLETTER No. 2
By Bill Scholes

Saturday 15th August 2009

HAT TRICK HEROES

There were five hat tricks on Saturday – two in the FA Cup and three in Division Two. In the FA Cup, Edson Cata scored three for Kingsbury London Tigers in their 5-2 win at Clapton and Craig Henney notched three for Aylesbury FC in their 6-0 win at Langford. This was Henney's second hat trick in the FA Cup, his first coming for Holmer Green against Broxbourne Boro four years ago. In Division Two, James Armstrong scored four and Tony Burnett scored three, for Berkhamsted in their 8-3 win at Bletchley Town, whilst Peter Maxey hit the net three times for Old Bradwell Utd against Kent Athletic.

F.A.CUP- EXTRA PRELIMINARY ROUND

A total of 29 SSMFL clubs joined the rush to reach Wembley at this stage, and when the dust had settled after Tuesday night's replays, 18 had progressed to the next round. There were three early starters on Friday night: **Welwyn Garden City** lost 4-0 to Flackwell Heath, **Hertford Town** went down narrowly 2-1 at home to Newport Pagnell in front of 211 spectators, Ossie Ardiles, and the FA Cup, whilst **Hoddesdon Town** came away from UCL side Potton Utd with a 2-2 draw, thanks to goals from Lee Tombs and the returning Richie Howard. There were 6 good away wins on Saturday – **Tring Athletic** beat Barking 3-2 with two goals from new signing Neil Roberts, their hosts ending the game with just 9 men. **Dunstable Town** enjoyed a 4-1 win at Bicester, **Kingsbury London Tigers** rattled in 5, including 3 from hot-shot Edson Cata, against Clapton, who managed two of their own, but the newly constituted **Aylesbury FC** went one better with six away at Langford, including a hat trick from Craig Henney, back to terrorise SSMFL Premier defences after a gap of a couple of years. **Kentish Town** produced an excellent 3-2 win away at **Hillingdon Borough**, with goals from Bermuda Kalu, Lucas Williams, and Fabion Simms, whilst **Cockfosters** did very well to come back from Combined Counties North Greenford Utd with a 2-0 victory – Aaron Ewing and Dean Barker on the scoresheet. A Mark Sontag goal was enough to give **Brimsdown Rovers** a 1-0 win away at **Oxhey Jets**, whilst **Hanwell** made heavy weather of beating their UCL Division 1 opponents Buckingham Town 3-1 at Ford Meadow. The first half opening minutes were even until two players decided to use their fists rather than their feet and both Tony Hill of Buckingham and perhaps more importantly, goalkeeper Keiron Jimmy of Hanwell were sent off in only the 16th minute of the match. Buckingham scored on 24 minutes following a corner that was not cleared and Connor Ecclestone headed past the stand-in keeper. Hanwell had a couple of chances, but equalised on 38 minutes from the penalty spot with Chris Mills scoring. The second half was all one way traffic as Buckingham visibly tired and Hanwell took control. Hanwell took the lead on 51 minutes when a great turn and shot from Shaun Lucien saw the ball fly into the home net. Whilst Buckingham tried to fight back, their only success was to hit a Hanwell post. Hanwell had numerous chances to seal the tie but spurned all of them until the 88 minute when substitute Blaise O'Brien scored

from close range. It was a good, well-contested match with the better team winning in the end. **Biggleswade United** won their local derby with UCL side Stotfold 2-0 thanks to goals from Emmanuel Langlais and Chris Leslie, whilst **Chalfont St. Peter** earned themselves a potentially lucrative trip to Chesham by gaining their win of the season with a 3-2 win at home to **Tokington Manor** – the winner coming five minutes from time from Adam Bunce. **London Colney** enjoyed a 4-1 win over visitors Harwich & Parkeston, the returning David Parkinson contributing a brace, whilst Parkinson's previous club **Leverstock Green** stopped Burnham Ramblers right to roam with a 2-1 win, both goals coming from their ex Kings Langley contingent. The all-Premier Division tie between **Harefield United** and **Haringey Borough** ended 2-2 in front of a good crowd of 115, but Harefield won the replay on Tuesday 3-1. **Hatfield Town** were held to 2-2 draw by visitors Southend Manor, but obviously relished the smell of the ozone, winning the replay 3-1. The **St. Margaretsbury** and Hullbridge Sports tie finished 0-0, but a Steve Barker goal gave the Saints 1-0 win in the replay. Finally, in the other replay, **Hoddesdon Town**, playing at Hertford Town because of cricket issues, triumphed 2-0 over Potton Utd with a brace from Lee Tombs.

DIVISION ONE

Buckingham Athletic made a great start to the season, and are now starring at the opposite end to last year. Their third victory on the trot came with a home 3-0 over newly promoted **Hadley**, courtesy of two goals from Gavin Hansell and one from Rob Hambridge. Keeping pace with Buckingham are **New Bradwell St. Peter**, who also won their third game on the trot – 3-2 away at **Harpenden Town**. Two newcomers to the Division clashed on Saturday – **AFC Dunstable**, up from Div Two hosted **Holmer Green**, down from the Premier, but lost by the odd goal in three. Simon Williams, returning from Tring, scored the vital winner with 12 minutes left. **Amersham Town** recorded their first victory of the new campaign with a 2-1 win at home to **Brache Sparta Community** in front of 80 spectators, one of their highest attendance figures for some time. **Kings Langley** and **Stony Stratford Town** fought out a 1-1 draw, whilst **Sport London e Benfica** recovered from going a goal down in the first minute to draw 2-2 with visitors **Bedford Town Reserves**. The floodgates well and truly opened on Tuesday night at **Holmer Green**, when a water main right at the entrance to the club burst, submerging the car park. New tarmac was still being laid as the game kicked off – with visitors **New Bradwell** also having a 100% record, something had to give and a 2-2 draw was probably a fair reflection of a harum-scarum game. An Allen (Dean) opened the scoring for Holmer and another Allen (Dave) scored their equaliser – sandwiched in between was delightful chip from Craig Townsend giving Charlie Fanner no chance, and a close range header from Matt Clinch right on the half time whistle.

DIVISION TWO

After just two games played, four sides have 100% records. **Aston Clinton** top the pile, by dint of a better goal difference, having walloped **Bletchley Town** 9-1 in their first game and followed that up with a 4-0 win over **Mursley United**. Blayne Cahill scored four against Bletchley, with another against Mursley. New joint managers Malcolm Dovaston and Paul Tompkins - the ex-WGC boss - are assembling a useful squad, already picking up players from the Aylesbury Vale fall out. Right on their tails are newly formed **Berkhamsted** who have beaten **MK Wanderers** 6-2 and **Bletchley Town** 8-3. Tony

Burnett scored four in the first game and followed that with another three against Bletchley, whilst ex Leverstock Green striker James Armstrong made his mark with four in their last game. An excellent crowd, for a Div Two game, of 109 watched their first game. One feels there may be some more mismatches coming up! Good to see recent perennial strugglers **Old Bradwell United** up in third spot with two wins – a 4-1 victory away at **Risborough Rangers** and a 5-2 win, including a Peter Maxey hat trick, away at **Kent Athletic**. The fourth club not to have dropped a point are **Padbury United** – 2-0 winners at **The 61 FC** and 4-0 winners at **Pitstone & Ivinghoe**. **MK Wanderers** notched up what I believe was their first ever three points in the SSMFL with a comprehensive 5-0 win at home to **Caddington** and **Wodson Park** beat **Tring Corinthians** 2-1 at home. **The 61 FC** bounced back from their opening day defeat by beating **Bucks Student Union** 3-2 at home, with goals from Ryan Smith, Matt Tibbs and Alex Bennett. Even the presence of Steve McQueen on the scoresheet could not engineer a great escape for the Students, for whom new signing Philip Nugent scored for the second week running. **Risborough Rangers** and **Totternhoe** shared the points in a 1-1 draw.

ST. MARGARETSBURY F.C.

Apologies to St. Margaretsbury for publishing inaccurate data re their management changes. Although it had been reported in both local papers and on the Bury website that Lee Judges had been relieved of his duties during the close season, that is not now the case and, following their AGM last Thursday, Lee Judges is still the manager of St. Margaretsbury. Gary Stock is the new Chairman, and Philip Hayward is the Secretary.

FIRST MANAGEMENT CASUALTY OF THE SEASON

(Unless you know better...)

After a poor start to the season Cranfield United and their management team of Craig Connell and Mickey Lemon have parted company. U18 Manager Pat Booden will be filling in until a new manager has been appointed.

BUCKS STUDENT UNION

Have available a set of metal railings for use as pitch surrounds. There is enough to enclose all 4 sides plus a protected walkway. The rails are only a year old and originally cost just over £5,000, but now available for £1,500. Any interested parties should contact Chris Miller 07969 475 873

F.A. CHARTER STANDARD

Congratulations to **Stony Stratford Town Football Club**, who have been awarded FA Charter Standard status as of the 11th August 2009

All items of news / tittle-tattle etc to:

Bill Scholes 01494 713867 Email: billscholes@hotmail.co.uk