

MOLTEN SPORTS SPARTAN SOUTH MIDLANDS FOOTBALL LEAGUE

NEWSLETTER No. 6

By Bill Scholes

Saturday 26th - Tuesday 29th September

HAT TRICK HEROES

The top guns were out in force over the weekend, with no less than 10 (11 if you include a double) hat tricks. Three were in the Premier Division, two in Div Two and five in the B&B Intermediate Cup. Pride of place goes to Lawrence Bunker who notched 6, three in each half, for Pitstone & Ivinghoe, whilst Chalfont St. Peter's Terrell Lewis, Dunstable Town's Karl Davidson and Berkhamsted's Tony Burnett all scored four. Ordinary (?) hat tricks came from Mark Burfoot, Lee Herring, Toby Akin, Joey Acheampong, Mitch Hamilton and Lee White. Just one on Tuesday – Lee Harman for Langford

F.A.CUP Sponsored by E.ON - SECOND ROUND QUALIFYING

A goal late at the end of each half from **Maidstone United** was enough to deny **Harefield Utd** a place in the next round as, despite a spirited performance; they went down 2-0. Some slight consolation may have come from the sizeable crowd of 323. **Aylesbury FC** is left as the SSMFL's remaining presence in this competition, following their 2-2 draw away at **Wingate & Finchley**. They got off to the worst possible start when the home side took the lead after just 46secs, but were swiftly back on track 4 minutes later through Dean Brennan. Wingate restored their lead early in the second half, but it was that man Craig Henney, who seems to relish scoring in the FA Cup, who popped up with the vital equaliser with just 8 minutes left, to take Wingate back to Haywood Way for the replay on Tuesday. The carrot for Aylesbury in Monday's draw for the next round turned out to be a plum home tie with near neighbours Chesham, and Mr Henney didn't take long to put the Moles in front. The advantage was however quickly cancelled out a minute later as Wingate equalised but 20 minutes later boxer Nathan Graham produced the knock out blow as he headed Aylesbury into the lead – and one which they didn't give up despite a number of scares.

PREMIER DIVISION

Colney Heath top the table following their 2-1 home win over newly promoted **Royston Town** – Jon Donoghue scoring the winner, whilst **Broxbourne Borough** kept up the pressure with an excellent 2-1 win away at **Hatfield Town**. Matt Mitchell gave Boro the lead just after the break, and although Hatfield equalized two minutes later, recent re-signing Ryan Wade popped up with winner with just 5 minutes left. **Chalfont St. Peter** have made an excellent recovery from their poor start to the season, and moved up into 4th place with a battling 4-1 win away at **St.**

Margaretsbury, including a virtuoso performance from speedy winger Terrell Lewis who notched all four goals. Highest scorers of the day were **Tring Athletic** whose 5-0 win at home to **Hillingdon Borough** took them to the top of the division's goal scoring charts. Mark Burfoot scored a second half hat trick, and Danny Gray and Andy Mullins added the others. **Hanwell Town** moved off the bottom of the table with their first three pointer of the season, beating **Langford** 3-2 up at Forde Park. Player manager Keith Rowlands scored a brace following Chris Mills' opener, whilst Lee Harman and Ross Scotney were on target for Langford. **Haringey Borough** lost 2-1 at home to **Oxhey Jets** and now prop up the table with just five points, but **Kentish Town** are only two points above them as they lost heavily 6-0 on Sunday to **Dunstable Town**, for whom Karl Davidson scored four. This win put Dunstable level on points with Colney Heath at the top of the table. **Leverstock Green** scored their third win of the season with a 2-0 win at home to **Welwyn Garden City**, goals coming from Dale Sears and Richard Harvey, whilst Daryl Mitchell's 78th minute goal gave **Hertford Town** a 1-0 win at home to **Kingsbury London Tigers**.

Colney Heath's stay at the top didn't last long as they slipped back to 3rd place on Tuesday night, following their comprehensive 4-0 defeat at home to **Chalfont St. Peter**, who moved up into second slot as a consequence. Two goals in each half did the damage – Terrell Lewis and Adam Louth in the first and John Carroll and Charlie Strutton in the second. **Dunstable Town** went to outright leaders at the top after their 2-1 home win against **Welwyn Garden City** – Neal Perrin and Karl Davidson scoring the goals. **Broxbourne Borough** fell back three places to 6th as a result of their 4-2 loss at home to **Oxhey Jets**. It is becoming extremely difficult to predict a **Langford** result – another surprise was their 6-0 home win against **Hertford Town**. Its all change at the foot of the table as **St. Margaretsbury** were the only one of the bottom four clubs not to register a point, and as a result they slipped right to the foot of the stairs. Bury lost 2-0 to **Haringey Borough**, who move out of the bottom two, whilst **Hanwell Town**, who beat **Brimmsdown Rovers** 2-1 with a first half brace from Blaise O'Brien, move up 5 places following their second successive victory. **Kentish Town** gained a point in their 2-2 draw away at **Hillingdon Borough**, but slipped down to second from bottom, although still a point clear of St. Margaretsbury.

DIVISION ONE

With leaders Hadley not playing, and with both New Bradwell St. Peter and Holmer Green involved in B&B Intermediate cup action, **Bedford Town Reserves** took the opportunity to close the gap at the top and move up into second place following their 2-1 win away at 4th place **Crawley Green**. The home side took an early lead, but two goals from Ishmael George saw Town Reserves home. Five points below the top 5, **AFC Dunstable** moved up to sit level with opponents **London Colney** as they ran out 4-1 winners, despite going behind to 5th minute Bullet Parkinson goal. **Ampthill Town** and **Sun Postal Sports** took part in an eight goal bonanza at Ampthill Park – the visitors eventually coming out on top 5-3. The home side actually scored 5 of the 8, but unfortunately 2 of them were in the opponents net. Dean Barker was again on the scoresheet (twice) for **Cockfosters** but unfortunately his double was not enough to

stop his side going down 3-2 at home to last years runners up **Kings Langley**, for whom Jimmy Milton, Steve Hutchins, and Joe Godwin were on target. **Hoddesdon Town** recorded a good 4-1 win at home to **Bedford**, goals coming from Craig Hinton 2, Richie Howard and an OG, whilst **Harpenden Town** had a 3-0 home win against **Cranfield United**. **Tokington Manor** put a bit of daylight between themselves and the bottom three as they garnered three points from their 3-1 home win against struggling **Brache Sparta CFC**.

DIVISION TWO

Just three games in this division, which incidentally shows how many Div Two clubs are now Bucks based. League leaders **Berkhamsted** ran riot in their home game against bottom club **Kent Athletic**, running in 10 goals without reply. Tony Burnett scored a first half hat trick – adding a fourth goal in the second half – whilst Jon Davies came up with a double. Steve Flain, Steve Hawes and Dan Lewis also contributed singles. Lee Herring scored all three of **Tring Corinthians** goals as they beat last years champions **The 61 F.C 3-0**, whilst **Caddington** had to thank Mark Medlin and Courtney Riley for their 2-1 home win over visitors **Wodson Park**, for whom Ross Murphy scored.

BERKS & BUCKS INTERMEDIATE CUP - FIRSTROUND

A total of 15 SSMFL clubs were involved in the 1st Round of this competition, and when the dust settled 10 were left standing to progress into the next round. A number of these contests were clearly one sided, with the outstanding example being **Pitstone & Ivinghoe's** 14 -0 demolition of **Prestwood**. On average a goal was scored every six and a half minutes – Lawrence Bunker helping himself to a round half dozen (does that mean he gets two match balls?), with Mitch Hamilton weighing in with three. **Aston Clinton** demolished **FC Leisure** 8-0, whilst **New Bradwell St. Peter** saw off **AC Marlow** by 6-1, helped by a hat trick from Joey Acheampong and a brace from Greg Tite. Bathed in warm late September sunshine, and looking out towards the rolling Chilterns, Spratleys Meadow is a lovely place to watch football, and **Amersham Town** served up a feast as they easily overcame the challenge of Slough based **Chalvey WMC Sports**. Livewire Toby Akin notched a hat trick in just over 30 minutes in the first half, and coupled with James Dabbs' early strike, the game was over as a contest by half time. Town added three more in the second half, but Chalvey never gave up and scored a consolation late on. There was hardly a bad tackle in the game, which was excellently refereed by Peter Greenhill. On a hot dry day in Milton Keynes, **MK Wanderers** hosted **Aylesbury Reserves** and there was little to choose between the sides in the first half as both had their chances, MK had two 'goals' chalked off for offside and Aylesbury missed two sitters. The second half saw MK dominate but chances came and went but they failed to kill off a tiring Aylesbury team. The half ended goalless and so into extra time. At last the spectators saw a goal as MK scored on 98 minutes when Daniel Dykes headed home from a long throw in. Into the second period of extra time and MK looked comfortable but a needless foul

gave the visitors a free kick on the left of the MK penalty area. The home defence nodded off to allow the Aylesbury full back to run into the area and head the ball in for the equaliser on 114 minutes. There was no further scoring and the match went to penalties. Both teams missed their first kicks but those following were put away comfortably until an MK player shot wide. The next Aylesbury player then made no mistake from the spot to clinch the tie for his club. A brace apiece from Simon Williams and Reno Sepede helped **Holmer Green** to a 5-2 home win over **Aston Park** and Lee White scored the first three goals in **Padbury United's** 7-0 rout of **Stewkley**. A brace each from Leon Read and Ben Lewis helped **Risborough Rangers** to a 5-3 win away at **St. Johns**, and **Old Bradwell United** defeated **Newport Pagnell Town Reserves** 3-1. The all SSMFL clash between **Bletchley Town** and **Buckingham Athletic** saw the Div One side eventually come out on top, winning 4-2., although not before they had been taken to extra time. An amazing result occurred at **Penn & Tylers Green**, where the home side, currently sitting second from bottom of Hellenic League Div One East, defeated **Stony Stratford Town** 9-3. **Bucks Student Union** made the long trip up to **Wolverton Town**, but could not come back with a victory, losing 5-3, whilst **Mursley United** went down 3-0 to **Chalfont Wasps**.

GIRL POWER RULES OK – AN ADDENDUM

Clive Moyse (who should be everyone's Phone-a-Friend on footie matters) has pointed out that newsworthy as it was to highlight the game between Totternhoe & Kent Athletic as being controlled by three female Officials, it is not the first time that the fair sex has been in charge of a men's game at senior level. On 13 September 1999 in the Nationwide Conference fixture - Kidderminster Harriers v Nuneaton Borough - the Referee was Wendy Toms assisted by Janie Frampton and Amy Rayner. I wonder where they are now – 10 years later. Nevertheless, it was still an excellent achievement by our three young ladies – Hayley Ives, Lisa-Marie Humphries and Yasmin Moore, and certainly a first in our league. More power to their whistles and flags!

Apologies for lack of a Newsletter over the last week, but I had to spend an unscheduled stopover for a few days in the Coronary Unit at Wycombe Hospital – sadly the surf board has had to be returned to the loft for another year. Recovery has not been helped by the relegation of Sussex in the County Championship, but I was cheered up by the thought of Dave Henman's face when Owen scored the winner in the recent Manchester derby. Again apologies if you have sent an email recently and not had a reply – I am trying to get round to them.

**Hopefully normal service will now be resumed, so please send news / views/ items / scurrilous gossip etc to:
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