

MOLTEN SPORTS
SPARTAN SOUTH MIDLANDS FOOTBALL LEAGUE

NEWSLETTER No. 8

By Bill Scholes

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HAT TRICK HEROES

After last weeks lull, the hot shots were back again with 5 recorded instances going into the history books. Pride of place must surely go to Craig Henney who added to his collection of match balls when he notched Aylesbury's first three goals in their 4-3 win over Chesham. Luke Beardsworth was on the mark three times for Oxhey Jets, as was Michael McKenzie for Stony Stratford, whilst Bernie Christie and Ryan Quinn both scored thrice in AFC Dunstable's 11-1 romp.

F.A.CUP -3rd QUALIFYING ROUND

Aylesbury F.C. 4 Chesham United 3

Congratulations to Aylesbury on this excellent victory over local rivals Chesham United who ply their trade in the Zameretto (Southern League in old money) Midland Division. Not only are Aylesbury the only SSMFL club left in the prestigious Cup competition, but they are the only Step 5 club left – a tremendous achievement. It was a typical Cup tie, between two sets of players who knew each other quite well, and with £7,500 prize money at stake, and in front of a crowd of 448, the atmosphere was highly charged. Aylesbury striker Craig Henney continued his love affair with the F.A. Cup, scoring his 4th hat trick in the competition – his third this season.

Chesham started brightly with Sam Ledger seeing a header cleared off the line and Steve Wales having a shot tipped over the bar by Aylesbury custodian Steve Smith, but Aylesbury took the lead on 15 minutes when Stuart Maynard was tripped in the box and prolific striker Craig Henney slotted home the resulting penalty. In the 35th minute Aylesbury could have been two up as Henney directed a powerful header towards the corner of the goal, only to be thwarted by an excellent flying save from keeper Richard Hayward. Instead it quickly became 1-1 as Chesham broke swiftly and Chris Bangura outpaced the otherwise excellent Matt Hayward to slot home. Equality however did not last very long as a minute or so later Henney played a one-two with Gareth Price and fired the return under the diving Hayward to put Aylesbury back in front. A disastrous couple of minutes for Chesham immediately after the Jaffa break saw Aylesbury take a commanding 4-1 lead – firstly Henney completed his hat trick with a powerful header as the Chesham defenders argued over the corner, and a minute later a superb run and cross from the impressive Price down the right saw Chesham defender Dan Gudgeon forced to slot into his own net. Lax defending saw

Bangura allowed to net his second from close range not long after to give Chesham hope, but for the remainder of the half they seemed more intent on taking on the man in black rather than the Aylesbury defence. It came as no surprise when Chesham's Daryl Cox, on as second half sub, was dismissed late in the day for a second caution, and although Leon Archer finally got the reward for his efforts in the fourth minute of Fergie time, it really was a case of too little too late as Aylesbury progressed into Monday's draw for the next round. Although Craig Henney rightly deserved the man of the Match award for his three goals, centre back Matt Hayward was a tower of strength at the back – head wrapped in a huge bandage, he won almost all the aerial battles as well producing a number of match saving tackles.

F.A CUP – 4th QUALIFYING ROUND

Aylesbury have been rewarded for their efforts with another home draw – this time against Wealdstone from the Ryman Premier. The game will take place on the 24th October.

PREMIER DIVISION

Chalfont St. Peter's last 10 games have produced 9 wins and the latest was a comprehensive 4-1 victory at home over **Hertford Town**, who had upset the form book with a midweek 1-0 win away at Hatfield Town. Charlie Strutton fired the Saints into an early lead and followed up with another on 20 minutes, capitalising on a defensive slip by the Blues skipper Glen Draper to rifle the ball into the net. Saints captain John Carroll made it three after 35 minutes and shortly after Hertford's Matt McArdle was dismissed after picking up a second yellow. Hertford's 10 men did reduce the deficit eleven minutes into the second half through a header from the old warhorse Kevin Cooper, but Alan Hedley restored the three goal lead with twenty minutes to go. **Colney Heath** went back to the top of the table in midweek following their 3-0 win over St. Margaretsbury, and held that position after their 4-2 win away at challengers **Dunstable Town**. **Royston Town** kept up the pressure on the leaders as they moved into fifth place with a comprehensive 5-2 win over **Haringey Borough** in front of a large crowd of 165. For the second successive Saturday the Crows scored 5, and as in the previous week against Basildon, there were 5 separate names on the score sheet. Carl Edwards, Luke Robins, Ryan Lockett, and Ross Collins were on target in the first half, whilst Lewis Endacott added to the total in the second. Boro's replies came from Tolu Topoola and Edward Dwusuansah. Down at the foot of the table there are 5 teams all locked together on 8 points...and not one of them gained a single point? Kingsbury London Tigers do have an excuse – they didn't have a game, but the other four all lost. **Kentish Town** went down 5-1 away at **Oxhey Jets**, for whom Luke Beardsworth chipped in with three with Wayne Gladdy and Ben Chandler notching the other two, whilst three goals from Myron Ramsey, Chris Cox and Tom Windsor for **Hillingdon Borough** were enough to see off **Welwyn Garden City**. Despite taking an 8th minute lead through Luke Lincoln, which they held for the next 73 minutes, **Biggleswade United** succumbed to two late goals from Lewis Pritchard and Matt Wardle in their away game at **Leverstock Green**. **Hanwell Town's** mini

revival came to an end as they lost 2-0 at home to **Broxbourne Borough** – scorers were Ryan Wade and Matt Mitchell, and a Mark Burfoot goal, two minutes into the second half, was sufficient to see **Tring Athletic** take all three points away at **St. Margaretsbury**. A large crowd of 161 at Preston Park saw **Harefield United** recover from going behind to a Lewis Field goal for **Hatfield Town** in the 60th minute to overcome their visitors with two goals from Jamie Hamilton and Alex Brown, whilst neither **Brimsdown Rovers** nor **Langford** could manage to find the net at Goldstone Road.

LEAGUE CHALLENGE TROPHY - SECOND ROUND

Pitstone & Ivinghoe took the lead with a goal by Mitch Hamilton early in the second half in their game against **Hadley**, but a two goal burst from Ian Kirkwood and Jamie Hazell enabled the Div One side to progress through to the next round.

DIVISION ONE

A pre-match gathering of the Youth section helped swell the crowd for the game at Lowfield to nearly one-hundred and thirty, but they went away disappointed after **Hoddesdon Town** conceded a last minute goal to the League leaders **Bedford Town Reserves**. Nat Peacock converted a Jermaine Ivy cross after 34 minutes to give the league leaders a first half lead, which Stacy Field doubled shortly after half time. The Lilywhites fought back, and almost immediately reduced the deficit through a Nick Newbury header. With just less than 15 minutes left the home side levelled after Steve Cawley latched onto a Lee Tombs cross, rounded a defender and slotted into the net. With full time beckoning, Kieran Chouhan latched onto a loose ball on the edge of the box and rifled his shot into the net to keep Town Reserves on top of the table. **New Bradwell St. Peter** kept the pressure on the leaders with a 3-1 home win against **London Colney**. St. Peter got off to a flying start with a goal after 2 minutes from John Mulholland, but Frankie Jowle pulled the Blue Boys level on the half hour mark. Joey Acheamong restored the home side's lead before half time, and Adam Castagnetti wrapped up the three points with five minutes left. Just up the road, three goals from Michael McKenzie and a singleton from Sean Carr saw **Stony Stratford Town** to a 4-1 win against **Harpenden Town**, who had taken the lead through Tim O'Donovan. **Sun Postal Sports** moved a couple of places away from the basement area with a 3-0 win at home to **Kings Langley** – on the mark for the Posties were James Thompson, David Burne and Leon Stewart. **Tokington Manor** also moved up a couple of places with a 2-1 win away at **Amersham Town**, leapfrogging over their hosts in the process. Amersham went in front early on with a 7th minute goal from Toby Akin, but the Manor equalised just before the break with a goal from Zane Gangadeen. With twelve minutes left, Gary Correll struck with the vital winner. **Cockfosters** travelled to Stratford Fields to play mid table **Buckingham Athletic** on a warm sunny October afternoon and came away with their first League win of the season by 2 goals to 1. Cockfosters started well but fell behind on only 5 minutes when Gavin Hansell pounced to prod a loose ball into the Cockfosters net from close

range. The visitors were by far the busier side and missed two good chances as a header went over the Athletic bar and then a shot also cleared the woodwork. However, a deserved equaliser came on 36 minutes when Cockfosters Captain, Nicky Steward, curled a shot from the edge of the Athletic box into the top corner of the net. The second half was dominated by Cockfosters. An early header hit the top of the Athletic crossbar, but the next goal was not long in coming. From an Athletic free kick just outside of the Cockfosters penalty area, the shot was blocked and the visitors raced down the pitch to gain a penalty. Dean Barker stepped up to convert the kick on 55 minutes to put Cockfosters ahead. Only a great one handed save from the Athletic keeper Matt Bines prevented Cockfosters going further ahead. Despite having the balance of play, Cockfosters could not get another goal and indeed had their keeper to thank for keeping out a late point blank Athletic effort. Buckingham looked out of sorts as they were ran ragged at times by a quick, eager and much fitter Cockfosters team.

DIVISION TWO

Top match in this Division was the visit of third placed **Aston Clinton** to leaders **Berkhamsted** and it turned out to be an excellent advert for Division Two football in front of a good crowd of 106. It was a highly competitive but never dirty game, and the final score of 1-1 was about right on the day. Berkhamsted missed a number of good chances, Jamie Arthur being the main culprit – possibly after the last couple of weeks he had left his shooting boots at home. Both keepers played well and kept their respective sides in the game and Berko were left rueing the defensive mess they allowed themselves to get into to allow Aston Clinton to take the lead just after half time through Aaron Usmani. However Berko were back on level terms 10 minutes later through Andy Burkett, and in the esteemed view of a notable watching dignitary, Aston Clinton were probably far happier with the point than Berko. Second placed **Padbury United** have allowed a bit of a gap to develop as they were rather surprisingly beaten 2-1 at home by a revitalised **Bucks Student Union**. Gerald Kelly and Tom Grebatt put the Students into a two goal lead at half time, but although Lee White pulled a goal back for the home side midway through the second half, they were unable to breach the Students defence a second time. **Wodson Park** came away from second to bottom **Mursley United** with a 4-0 win, all the goals coming in the second half through Sam Leader, Steve Hawsey, Ross Murphy and Tyler Hatherly, and **Tring Corinthians** moved up into 5th place with a 3-1 win at home to **Old Bradwell United**. Scorers for Corry were Will Hatton, Steve Lewis, and Shaun Diswell while James Canavan replied for the visitors. The game between **MK Wanderers** and **Risborough Rangers** ended in a 0-0 draw.

BEDS SENIOR TROPHY –FIRST ROUND

There were four all SSMFL clashes in the 1st Round of this competition and three of these pitted a Div One side against a Div Two side. Performance of the round came from **Caddington** who travelled to **Amphill Town** and came away with a 5-2 win. In

the other two cases, the Div One sides came out on top with **Cranfield United** winning 4-0 at home to **Kent Athletic**, and **Crawley Green** beating **Totterhoe** 3-1. The all Div One clash saw Bedford narrowly dispose of **Brache Sparta CFC** 1-0. **The 61 FC** visited Biggleswade Town's impressive new stadium to play **Southill Alexander**, and came away with a narrow 4-3 victory, whilst **AFC Dunstable** had a bit of a romp in a miss-match against bottom of the Bedford League **Riseley Sports**, without a league win to their name, winning 11-1.

TERRELL LEWIS MOVES TO CHESTERFIELD

Chalfont St. Peter's speedy striker, 21 year old Terrell Lewis, has been offered a professional contract with League Two side Chesterfield. Terrell is a product of Chalfont's youth and football development scheme and has had trials at several clubs over the past months. The club's policy of developing local players and offering them the opportunity of moving up the football hierarchy is bearing fruit and is the result of the hard work being put in by Chalfont's successful manager, Danny Edwards, and his team. With Director of Football, Ted Buxton, Chalfont have a most valuable personality on board whose wealth of experience and connections have proved invaluable. The club wishes Terrell all the best for the future and says thank you to a player who has made over 150 first team appearances for the club and has scored over 70 goals.

A WISE MOVE FOR CHALFONT ST. PETER

Denis Mair, Chalfont St. Peter's affable Chairman announced last week that Denis Wise (ex Chelsea and England) will be assisting the club going forward. Denis (Wise), who lives locally, has offered his assistance in strengthening the very important position that the club plays within the local community. His involvement will be purely on the community side, and he will not be involved with football matters - no change there, then.

WHAT'S THE COMMON DENOMINATOR?

Whilst compiling the last couple of newsletters, it has become clear that a common thread has appeared in games involving our Premier Division clubs. In particular three very recent games spring to mind – numerous yellow cards for one of the sides in each game, culminating in at least one red card for same side, and the strongly worded questioning (either on a website, in a programme or in person) of the competency of the match officials abilities to be in charge of their particular game. Incidentally, all 9 officials were different.

The common denominator – oh, yes.....each of the 3 sides with the poor disciplinary performances all lost.

All items of interest, news, views etc to
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