

MOLTEN SPORTS
SPARTAN SOUTH MIDLANDS FOOTBALL LEAGUE

NEWSLETTER No. 9

By Bill Scholes

Saturday 17th October 2009

Although there were plenty of goals, with 4 teams knocking in 7 each, there was only one hat trick, and that came from Dan Nicholls of Padbury United in their 7-0 win over Kent Athletic

PREMIER DIVISION

Chalfont St. Peter went level with Colney Heath at the top of the League with a crushing 7-1 away win at bottom of the league **Kentish Town**. The Saints took an early lead after 12 minutes when Lee Thompson converted a Ben Stack corner, Charlie Strutton added a second on 28 minutes and Ben Stack deceived the home keeper with a long range lob on the half hour to put the visitors three up at the break. Chalfont continued to be well on top and within seven minutes of the restart the score had raced ahead to 6-1. Alan Hedley netted for the 3rd game on the trot on 46 minutes and Kentish scored a soft goal through Uduma Kalu a minute later for 4-1. Ben Stack scored his second from the spot on 51 and Charlie Strutton added his second, and his side's sixth, a minute later. Substitute Daniel Sears rounded off the scoring with a clean strike in the last 5 minutes. **Colney Heath** held on to the top spot on goal difference as they drew 1-1 at home with **Hanwell Town**. Blaise O'Brien put Hanwell in front in the first minute, only for Greg Deacon to equalise 9 minutes later. **Dunstable Town** moved back up into the reckoning with a 5-1 win away at **Hatfield Town**. In an eventful game, Hatfield dominated the early exchanges and took an early lead through Matt Standen. After about 20 minutes, the Dunstable manager took exception to the award of a throw-in and was dismissed from the dug out for foul and abusive language, but this only seemed to spur Dunstable on and they got right back in the game when Aaron Flood chased a long ball forward and outpaced the challenging defender to loop in the equaliser over the head of Hatfield glovesman Gary Statham. Not long after, Russell Preston could have repeated the feat, but his lob dropped just over the bar. Sub Douglas Kisuule did not take long to make his mark in the second half, putting Dunstable into the lead following a break away, and Preston finally got on the scoresheet in the 70th minute. The visitors were now clearly on top, and Hatfield soon had a mountain to climb as they went down to 9 men following the dismissals of Jason Beck and Lewis Field for second yellow card offences. With ten minutes left, Neal Perrin added Dunstable's 4th goal from the penalty spot, and shortly afterwards the Hatfield manager, after lengthy discussions with the match officials, joined the Dunstable manager in being dismissed from the dugout. There was still time for the best goal of the game as a flowing move out of Dunstable's defence resulted in an excellent cross which Nick Jackson headed superbly home to complete the scoring. The Hatfield manager made his unhappiness

felt in the Clubhouse after the game. **Biggleswade United** welcomed **Kingsbury London Tigers** to Second Meadow with both clubs struggling at the wrong end of the table but it was the Tigers who came away with an important 1 – 0 win. The match started fast and frantic and that how is stayed for most of the game. Tigers started the better and dominated all the early play – their keeper did not touch the ball for the first 15 minutes and United were not able to string more than two passes together. The Tigers pressure paid off on 26 minutes when their captain, Edson Cata, scored from the edge of the United box with a crisp shot into the corner of the net. The only response from United was a couple of shots that flew well wide and a shot easily saved by the Tigers keeper. Thus half time came with the visitors well in control. United started the second half well – something the Manager said I expect, but without causing any real alarm in the Tigers defence. Indeed the Tigers should really have scored again but with only the keeper to beat, the forward shot straight at him. United were beginning to put some pressure on the Tigers defence, who did not help themselves by trying to play the ball out when a hefty boot would have been better. Despite several good positions and some goalmouth scrambles, United could not get the important strike on goal and the Tigers held out for a well deserved win. **Aylesbury** came down to earth with a bump following their FA Cup win last week as they lost their unbeaten record in the League, going down 1-0 at home to lowly **St. Margaretsbury**. The solitary goal came in the 66th minute from Ed Taylor. Although Rob Tungatt gave **Broxbourne Borough** the lead in the 8th minute in their home game against troubled **Welwyn Garden City**, they had to wait until the last 15 minutes before three more goals arrived from Tony Burke, Tungatt again and Ryan Wade. Another side to take an early lead was **Leverstock Green** – Dale Sears putting them in front in the 12th minute – but home side **Hillingdon Borough** gained a valuable point late in the game through a Lucas Williams 87th minute equaliser. **Harefield United's** up and down season continues as they lost 2-1 away at **Brimdson Rovers**. It was goalless in the first half, but by the hour mark the home side were two goals up, through Ricci Crace and Paul Campbell. Craig Totton gave the Hares a lifeline with a 68th minute penalty but Rovers held on for the three points. **Haringey Borough** moved themselves out of the bottom three with a 3-0 home win against **Langford** – goals coming from George Sifonios, Charles Douse and Tolu Topoola, whilst **Hertford Town** achieved the same scoreline against **Oxhey Jets** – Kevin Cooper, Attila Korsoveczki and Dominic Musafiri being on target for the Blues. In front of a large crowd of 108, **Tring Athletic** recovered from going behind to early two goals from **Royston Town** to take all three points as they ran out 4-2 winners. Ricky Young and Josh Bronti put the Crows two up inside 18 minutes, but Graham Hall halved the deficit not long before half time. Tony Field pulled Tring back on to level terms almost immediately after the break, and goals from Ashley Addison and Mark Burfoot completed the turn around by the 65th minute.

DIVISION ONE

Bedford Town Reserves extended their lead at the top to four points as they sneaked the points in a very closely-fought local derby against **Cranfield United** A very

scrappy first half saw both teams cancel each other out in the midfield areas and it deservedly ended all square. Town began the second period brightly, dominating possession and creating numerous chances but one was enough when Nat Peacock was sent through and he finished neatly giving the hosts the lead on 53 minutes. Cranfield responded well to the goal and may count themselves unlucky not to take advantage of the hosts' missed chances and grab a point, but Town held on to take all three the points. Second placed **New Bradwell St. Peter** could only manage a point in their 3-3 draw at home to **Hoddesdon Town** – a match that was a classic game of two halves. The first 45 minutes belonged to Hoddesdon as they raced into a three goal lead thanks to an early strike from Lee Tombs and two from Steve Cawley. New Bradwell fought back in the second period and salvaged a point with three goals from Lea Coulter, Mark Boland and Craig Townsend – the latter's goal coming in the third minute of added on time. **Hadley** remain third, but they also had to come from behind to garner their point in the 1-1 draw at home to **Sun Postal Sports**. Lee Wilkinson gave the visitors an 8th minute lead but the Posties had to wait until the 65th minute for Ian Kirkwood's equaliser. **Holmer Green**, in fourth place, are now the only club to remain unbeaten in all three divisions, and they continued their unbeaten run with a 2-0 win away at **Crawley Green**, thanks to a first half goal from Tom Alabaster and a penalty in the second half from Aiden Taylor. Basic mistakes cost **Amphill Town** dearly in their game at **Tokington Manor** that could have gone either way. Manor's two 6ft + strikers made the most of simple long balls as they went 2-0 up within half an hour – Steve Farrell and Melford Simpson on the mark. Stuart Reynolds volleyed Amphill back into the game on the stroke of half time, but the Manor went further ahead just after the break through Kevin Sumner. On 60 minutes a Chris Cook header again reduced the deficit, but the hosts completed the scoring with a Dominic Rhome free kick. Doubles from Bernie Christie and Hayden Wills, along with goals from Junior George, Craig Butler and Adam Reed helped **AFC Dunstable** to a comprehensive 7-2 win at home to **Harpenden Town**, for whom Pat Knock and Adam Smith replied. A Michael McKenzie goal gave **Stony Stratford** an early lead on their trip to **Bedford**, but the home equalised through Phil Fisher in the 77th minute, whilst **Brache Sparta** remain rooted to the foot of the stairs following their 2-0 loss against relegation rivals **Sport London e Benfica** – Bruno Freitas scoring both goals. **Kings Langley** are beginning to move slowly up the table after an indifferent start and they enjoyed a 3-1 win at home to **Buckingham Athletic**. The visitors took the lead through Frank Tarrant midway through the first half, but Ian Chalgate squared it up a few minutes later. Second half goals from Gary Roberts and Adrian Corcoran sealed the win. Two goals from Bullitt Parkinson were enough to see **London Colney** safely home against **Amersham Town**, who did pull a goal back from Toby Francis but too late.

DIVISION TWO

Leaders **Berkhamsted** extended their lead at the top to four points as they came away from their visit to neighbours **Tring Corinthians** with a narrow 1-0 victory, thanks to a 75th minute goal from James Armstrong. **Padbury United** kept up the pressure on

the leaders with a 7-0 thumping of bottom club **Kent Athletic**, including the day's only hat trick from Dan Nicholls. A second half brace from Dominic Lawless and singles from Michael Munday and Dan Rathery completed the scoring. **Aston Clinton** are handily placed in third spot after their 3-2 win at home to **Caddington**, and although 5 points behind, they do have two games in hand. The signing of big centre back Kyle Kilmartin from Aylesbury has strengthened the Bucks side and he was on the scoresheet, along with a brace from Taurean O'Sullivan. Michael Medlin and Dan Fleming replied for Caddington. **Wodson Park** could only draw 2-2 away at **The 61 FC** and thus missed out on the chance to go third, but **Pitstone & Ivinghoe** are right behind them after their comprehensive 7-1 win away at early pace setters **Old Bradwell United**. John Bentley scored two for the villagers, and the other five came from Matt Holt, Rory Manning, Nick Ryan, Kevin Templar and Mitch Hamilton. No Bunker on the scoresheet – perhaps he wasn't playing. Bradwell's late reply came from Fraser Nicholl. A 55th minute penalty from Sam Parrish enabled **MK Wanderers** to snatch a 1-0 win at **Bucks Student Union**, whilst **Bletchley Town** moved out of the bottom three with 3-2 home win against **Risborough Rangers**. Bletchley's goals came from Steve Keane (2) and Simon Carmichael and Will Barnard and Lee Haynes were on target for Risboro. **Totternhoe** moved away from the danger zone at the foot of the table courtesy of two goals from Gary Capehorn and Dean Sizer in their home game with **Mursley United**, who remain second from bottom as a consequence.

HAVE YOU BEEN OFFERED ANY GANG MOWERS RECENTLY?

Cranfield United FC suffered a real setback last Tuesday night when some rotten soul (s) stole their gang mowers. The mowers had only been returned to the club on Tuesday morning, having undergone a £2500 refurbishment. Has any club purchased, been offered or indeed canvassed for a set of gang mowers during the last couple of weeks? Cranfield are offering a substantial reward to any person or club providing information which leads to the culprit, and importantly to the return of the gang mowers. If you have any information at all, please contact Larry Corkrey on 01908 618371, 07854 936405, or email larrycor@btinternet.com

SSMFL REPRESENTATIVE XI FRIENDLY

A friendly has been arranged between the Spartan South Midlands Division Two representative team and the Herts County League which will be played at Oxhey Jets on Tuesday evening, 3 November 2009, kick-off 7.45pm. Everyone is welcome and admission is free.

CHANGE AT WELWYN GARDEN CITY

Paul Faulkner has left his role as manager of Welwyn Garden City with immediate effect following a meeting with Chairman Gary Bevan. Following a discussion on the recent run of poor results, it was mutually agreed that the club and Faulkner would part company.

CHARITY QUIZ NIGHT – IN AID OF ASTHMA UK

Please find details of this Year's Charity Quiz Night, run in aid of Asthma UK, and in memory of Carl Couzens, the very well respected Herts referee who sadly died last year. Organiser John Burlison would love to see as many SSMFL colleagues as possible.

Charity Quiz Night in aid of Asthma UK, in memory of good friend and refereeing colleague Carl Couzens.

Date: Saturday 28th November 2009

Venue: The Heathcote School, Shephall Green, Stevenage.

The kick-off: 7.45 for 8pm start. (Plenty of time to get there after your game)

The cost: £7 per head which includes supper.

Number per team: Maximum of 8

Loads of prizes including 'spot prizes'

For tickets and info: John Burlison, 196 Telford Avenue, Stevenage SG2 0AU

Tel 01438 234139 email: john@quizzesforcharity.com or

john.burlison@nibsc.hpa.org.uk

FA CUP AT AYLESBURY FC

Yer actual FA Cup – yes, the real thing, will make an appearance at Haywood Way on Thursday evening, from 6.00pm onwards, as part of the build up for Aylesbury's big game on Saturday against Wealdstone in the 4th Qualifying Round. Not only are Aylesbury the last SSMFL side left in the competition, they are the sole remaining Step 5 club. A potential tie against Football League opposition looms for the winners and all at the SSMFL wish Aylesbury the very best of luck.

All news, views and items of interest are welcome:

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