

MOLTEN SPORTS
SPARTAN SOUTH MIDLANDS FOOTBALL LEAGUE

NEWSLETTER No. 11
By Bill Scholes

Saturday 31st October 2009

On a lovely sunny autumnal afternoon, there were just the two hat tricks on Saturday. In the Premier Division, Luke Beardsworth scored three for Oxhey Jets against Kingsbury London Tigers, and in Division One Andy Shed is back with a bang for Holmer Green with his three against Buckingham Athletic.

PREMIER DIVISION

A very pleasing aspect of Saturday's games was the crowd attendances – 4 matches, at Royston Town, Harefield United, Hertford Town and Hatfield Town each attracted over 100 spectators each, with Royston topping the lot with 231.

Colney Heath remain in top spot following their 5-1 win at home over struggling **Kentish Town**, although they had to wait until the last 7 minutes to make sure of the points. Four points behind in second place are **Dunstable Town** who came away from their second visit in 11 days to **Hertford Town** with a 3-1 victory. Russell Preston gave Dunstable an early lead, but Dominic Musafiri levelled the scores after 34 minutes. However, two early second half goals, from Douglass Kissula and Preston, again, sealed the game for the visitors. **Chalfont St. Peter** remain third, despite losing to a last minute goal away at resurgent **Harefield United**. On the mark for the Hares were Alex Brown, Jack Reader and Paul Haynes, whilst it was good to see Danny Hughes back in action and on the scoresheet (twice) for the Saints after his bad injury last season, incidentally suffered against Harefield nearly a year ago. In front of a bumper crowd of the day's largest gate (231), **Royston Town** had no trouble disposing of bottom club **Welwyn Garden City** 8-0, with doubles from Ricky Young and Josh Bronti, and singles from Luke Robins, Ross Collins, Terry Lock and Tom Malins. The biggest shock of the day came up at **Biggleswade United**, where the home side beat **Aylesbury FC** 3-2. Possibly suffering a hangover from their FA Cup defeat last week, the visitors were always playing catch up after Utd went into an early two goal lead through Chris Francis and Emmanuel Langlais. Aylesbury had numerous chances to score but couldn't find the net until Ben Stevens pulled one back after 24 minutes, but half time was reached with Utd still in front. They increased their lead after 68 minutes when Langlais scored his second direct from a free kick, and although Matt Hayward managed a goal two minutes from the end, it was too late. **Tring Athletic** kept in touch with the leading pack with a 2-0 home win against **Haringey Borough**, but a stubborn Boro defence kept Tring at bay until the last 20 minutes when the phrase "the substitutes changed the game" really came true as both subs – Andy Mullins and Vinnie Iannone – came on and scored the vital two goals. Also in touch with the leaders are **Broxbourne Borough** who needed a late, late goal from Murat Karagul to secure all three points in their home fixture with **Leverstock Green**. It was

goal less at half time, but a Ryan Wade header put Boro in front on the hour mark. With 8 minutes left, Dale Sears headed Leverstock back in the game, but in added on time, Karagul headed home a free kick for the winning goal. There was bags of action and incident at **Oxhey Jets** where the home side defeated **Kingsbury London Tigers** 4-3 with yet another late, late goal in added on time. Tigers turned on the style early on and went into a 2-0 lead before Jets reduced the deficit just before half time. Fifteen minutes after the break, the game had turned around as two goals from Luke Beardsworth put the Jets in front for the first time. Tigers continued to press forward and Edson Cata equalised from the spot with six minutes left. There was still time for one final twist as Jets were awarded a penalty of their own in the third minute of added on time – Beardsworth converted the spot kick to complete his hat trick, but then received a straight red card. More action and incident at **Hatfield Town** where the home side slipped to their 5th successive league defeat, going down 3-0 to **Brimsdown Rovers**, for whom Adam Moss, Ricci Crace and Tom Cole were on the scoresheet. In the bottom half of the table, **St. Margaretsbury** and **Hanwell Town** drew one apiece. Both goals came late in the game, Jason Tucker putting Hanwell in front and Anthony Valentine equalising for the Bury. **Langford** moved into the top half of the table following their 2-1 win away at **Hillingdon Borough**. Lee Harman gave them the lead just before the break, Joe Delasalle doubled their money shortly afterwards, and although Dujon Desagurante reduced the deficit almost immediately, there was no further scoring.

DIVISION ONE

No change at the top as both Bedford Town Reserves and Holmer Green won, and Hadley were involved in Cup action. **Bedford Town Reserves** thrilled the crowd of 7 at **Tokington Manor** with a 4-1 victory, courtesy of goals from Jermain Ivy, Nat Peacock, Alex Baker and a Michael Ewang penalty – yet another case of a goal scored deep into added on time. Stuart Johnson replied with a penalty of his own for the Manor. **Holmer Green** extended their unbeaten 13 match league run with a comfortable 4-0 win at home to **Buckingham Athletic**, who after a bright start to the campaign have slipped down the table of late. Dave Allen got the party going on the half hour mark, following up a rebound from an Andy Shed shot, but the prolific Shed then took centre stage as he scored his first after 36 minutes, followed that up with a header just after the break, and completed his hat trick on 77minutes. Young glovesman Charlie Fanner once again excelled between the sticks for Holmer. **New Bradwell St. Peter** are hanging on to 4th place, but visitors **Crawley Green** have closed the gap following their 2-1 win. All three goals came in the last 25 minutes, and once again the game was decided by a goal scored in added on time – this time Chris Harvey was the man on the spot. Crawley had earlier taken the lead through Tom Freeman, but Joey Acheampong equalised for Bradwell with 8 minutes left. **London Colney** hang on to 6th place, just, as they fell to their first home league defeat in 7 games against **Hoddesdon Town**. I suppose with both sides being involved recently in games where goals regularly hit the back of the net, a goalless draw was always on the cards, and for the first 45 minutes it certainly looked that way. Colney generally edged the first half, but so often their final ball let them down – indeed with the Jaffas beckoning, Colney produced some excellent football in moving the ball from defence to attack but the final ball whizzed harmlessly across the face of the goal. The visitors came more into the game after the restart, and kicking down the slope, began to put the Colney defence under

pressure. Just as the hour mark ticked by, Tony Neilson put the Lilywhites in front as he controlled a great ball from Lee Tombs to lash into the net at the far post. Colney fought hard to get back into the game, but with the influential Gary Simmons withdrawn, they struggled to penetrate the defiant Hoddesdon rearguard, and Steve Cawley capped an excellent performance when he slid home a pinpoint cross from Neilson to ensure all three points returned to Lowlands. **AFC Dunstable** hosted visitors **Bedford** at the Creasey Park Stadium in a game which promised plenty of goals given their earlier match at Bedford had finished 4-4. This time however, it was Dunstable who just edged home by 3-2 in a very entertaining match. The game was only two minutes old and Bedford scored when Jason Layne blasted home a free kick from the edge of the Dunstable box. There could have been another goal but the Bedford shot hit the post and bounced clear. Dunstable had their chances and only wayward finishing prevented them from scoring. The equaliser came on 31 minutes when Ryan Quinn headed home a right wing cross. However, the parity only lasted two minutes as a long hopeful shot from Liam Tinkler on 33 minutes bounced in front of the Dunstable keeper and flew into the top of the net. There was still enough time left in the half for Matt Jones in the Bedford goal to make two outstanding saves to ensure that Bedford ended the half in the lead. The second half belonged to Dunstable and they equalised again straight from the start when Adam Read scored on 47 minutes from a right wing cross. The deciding goal came on 64 minutes when Hayden Wills blasted the ball high into the net from an acute angle. It could and should have been more for Dunstable but a combination of some good goalkeeping and some missed chances kept the match on a knife edge until the final whistle. Despite a final few anxious minutes, Dunstable held out for a well deserved victory. **Amersham Town** recorded their first victory in 5 league games as they overcame a Jekyll and Hyde **Stony Stratford Town** 3-1 at Spratleys Meadow. Toby Francis opened the scoring after 10 minutes but the lead only lasted 4 minutes before James Atherton levelled the scores. Andy Wheeler-King added Amersham's second just before the half hour mark, and Francis rounded off the scoring with his second a minute before the end. The first half of the game between **Cockfosters** and **Cranfield United** was a drab encounter which was harder to watch than to play in, with both goalkeepers virtually untroubled. The second half, however, went the way of Cockfosters as Paul Wood scored twice and Dean Barker added a third in the last minute to give the home side their third successive league win. **Brache Sparta CFC** collected only their third point of the season as they held visitors **Amphill Town** to a 1-1 draw. Stuart Reynolds gave Amphill the lead 5 minutes before the break, but Rob Skyers gained the valuable point 4 minutes after the restart.

DIVISION TWO

With Berkhamsted involved in County Cup action, **Padbury United** took full advantage to close the gap at the top to just one point as they completed a comprehensive 5-2 away at **Caddinton**. Dominic Lawless and Dan Nicholls both scored a brace each with Lee White chipping in with other, whilst Tony Scurry also scored a brace for the home side. **Aston Clinton** moved up into third place with a 2-0 win at home over **The 61 FC**, goals coming from Aaron Usmani and Neil Roberts, returned from his club hopping exploits around the clubs of the Vale of Aylesbury. **Pitstone & Ivinghoe** remain in close order and with games in hand, following their 2-1 win over visitors **Totternhoe**. Henry Mungwira put Totternhoe in front with just 2 minutes played, but Lloyd Lambert evened it up half way

through the first half, and an OG settled the issue with just over 10 minutes left. The Milton Keynes derby between **MK Wanderers** and **Bletchley Town** ended in a comfortable 5-0 win for the Wanderers, for whom Mathew Old (2), Michael Crook, Jordan Nash and David Dykes were on the scoresheet. **Kent Athletic's** miserable season continued as they lost 4-1 at home to **Risborough Rangers**, who moved themselves comfortably away from the re-election zone. The bottom club did actually take the lead through Arthur Wallace, but goals from Martin Griggs, Ben Lewis, Johnny Cleverly and Will Barnard saw the visitors safely home. All the action, and the goals, in the game between **Old Bradwell United** and **Bucks Student Union** came in the last 50 minutes. Lee Draper put Old Bradwell in front only for Steve McQueen to bring the Students level a minute before Jaffa time. Sam Edwards put the home side back in front shortly after the restart, but then goals from Vinnie Roberts, Ryan Clarke and Phil Nugent established student superiority. Back came Old Bradwell with a Steve Preston goal to make it a nervy last 5 minutes for the Students, but they held on for the 4-3 victory.

HERTS SENIOR CENTENARY TROPHY -1st ROUND

Four of our clubs progressed through to the next round. **Berkhamsted** beat **Hertford Heath** 6-1, **Wodson Park** overcame **Bovingdon** 4-0, **Tring Corinthians** beat **Hadley** 2-0 and **Kings Langley** finally triumphed 10-9 after an epic penalty shoot out with **Sandridge Rovers**, after drawing 0-0 after extra time. **Harpenden Town** lost 4-2 to **Codicote** and **Sun Postal Sports** went down 5-1 at home to **Baldock Town Letchworth**.

DUNSTABLE TOWN UNDER 18's

Congratulations to Dunstable Town's Under 18s team who have reached the FA Youth Cup First Round Proper, after beating Borehamwood 2-1 last Thursday. The feat is even more impressive considering that Borehamwood have an academy featuring over 60 under 18's players, across their four under 18s sides, and two England schoolboy internationals. The First round will see Town travelling to face the MK Dons at the 22,000-seater Stadium MK on Wednesday 4th November. Dean Hitchcock and Elliott Denton scored the goals to send the Blues to Milton Keynes, with 10 members of the talented youth team having signed on for the first team and six of those taking part in Spartan South Midlands football regularly for Dunstable Town.

ANNUAL PROGRAMME AWARDS

The magazine Programme Monthly is again running their Annual Awards section for Non League Programmes. Head monitor Stuart Latham (Sponsor of the Premier Division Cup through his company S&T Sales & Marketing) is in charge of marking the Spartan South Midlands League section. There is an Award for each Division, as well as an overall winner. If you wish your club's programme to be included, please send Stuart a copy of this season's edition as soon as possible to:
Stuart Latham, 18 Bosworth Rd, Grange Park, Swindon, Wilts SN5 6AL

**Don't forget to send any items of news / interest / gossip etc to
Bill Scholes at billscholes@hotmail.co.uk**