

**MOLTEN SPORTS**  
**SPARTAN SOUTH MIDLANDS FOOTBALL LEAGUE**

**NEWSLETTER No. 13**

*By Bill Scholes*

**Saturday 14 November 2009**

This was undoubtedly the first bad (weather wise) weekend of the season, with a total of 12 games suffering postponement. All three divisions, plus the FA Vase were affected, whilst a number of those games that did take place all suffered to some degree or other from rain and very strong winds.

*There were three hat tricks, spread equally around the divisions. Mark Burfoot of Tring Athletic scored all three of his team's goals to beat Oxhey Jets, Lewis Toomey scored thrice as Kings Langley beat Cranfield, and Neil Roberts helped Aston Clinton to their Quarter Final win over Padbury.*

#### **F.A. Carlsberg VASE -2<sup>nd</sup> ROUND**

**Chalfont St. Peter's** hopes of a second successive Vase run ended with a whimper at a wet and windy Mill Meadow, as they went down 5-1 to South Coast visitors **Peacehaven & Telscombe**. Coming into the game on the back of 6 straight defeats, and kicking into a strong gusty wind, the Saints came back from losing an early goal after 10 minutes, when an unmarked Wes Mullis powered home a header from a needlessly conceded free kick, to equalise through an excellent solo effort from Alan Hedley. They could have taken the lead on the half hour mark, but Charlie Strutton blazed over from 6 yards. The second half, however, belonged to the visitors, and they scored at regular intervals to break Chalfont's hearts. The nail in the coffin was a debatable penalty, but by then it was too late. The tie between **Wellingborough Town** and **Royston Town** was in doubt right up to the kick off, but after work from the ground staff the referee passed the pitch fit for play just before the kick off and Royston won comfortably by 4 – 0 in the end. The game was even in the opening minutes, but Royston carried the greater threat and they hit the home bar from a free kick on 9 minutes. The opening Royston goal came after 28 minutes when Ryan Lockett headed home a left wing cross. Wellingborough battled back and their forward missed a sitter on 36 minutes. They were made to pay for this miss when Lockett headed in his second goal from a cross by Ricky Young on 40 minutes. There was just time for Royston to add another goal when Young headed home a free kick right on half time. The second half was more of a containing effort from Royston but they did add to their score on 77 minutes when Carl Edwards scored after a shot rebounded from the home keeper. This was match over, although Wellingborough never gave up and only a couple of smart saves from the Royston keeper and

another dreadful miss from the home forwards allowed Royston to keep a clean sheet. Royston ran out clear winners in the end although the score line was a little harsh on Wellingborough. The weather up in East Anglia was not the best, with both **Bedford's** game against **Needham Market** and **Hadley's** game against **Stanway Rovers** being postponed. **Biggleswade United** were literally blown away in their game against **Kirkley and Pakefield** (Lowestoft) – sadly losing to two second half goals in front of a crowd of 155 – probably fishermen who couldn't get their boats out of the harbour in the gale! Two games were scheduled for Sunday, but only one could go ahead – the game between **Wembley** and **Hoddesdon** falling foul of a waterlogged pitch. In the other all SSMFL clash, **Brimsdown Rovers** came out on top, just, in their home tie with **London Colney**. Rikki Burbridge put Rovers in front after 10 minutes, but Shaun Murphy levelled the scores on the half hour mark. Burbridge scored again just before the break to restore Rovers lead, and although Jackson Gash added the third with 7 minutes left, Murphy again found the net for Colney to leave an anxious last few minutes, but Rovers held on.

The three postponed games will take place this Tuesday and Wednesday. Both Bedford's and Hoddesdon's games are on Tuesday, whilst Hadley will play on Wednesday – weather and pitches permitting.

#### **FA VASE DRAW – 3<sup>rd</sup> ROUND – SATURDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER**

The only clear-cut tie, from a SSMFL point of view, is **Brimsdown Rovers** home tie with **Newport Pagnell Town**. **Royston Town** await the winners of the **Stanway Rovers / Hadley tie**, whilst **Hoddesdon**, if they overcome Wembley, would be at home to **Kirkley & Pakefield**. Should **Bedford** triumph at Needham Market, they will again be away – a bit further up the road to another Eastern Counties side **Cambridge Regional College**.

At the moment we only have two sides, both from the Premier Division, definitely through to the next round, and we wish our three Div One representatives, Bedford, Hadley and Hoddesdon all the best in their delayed ties this week.

#### **PREMIER DIVISION**

**Tring Athletic** took full advantage of Colney Heath's postponed game to move up to the giddy heights of second spot following their 3-2 home win over **Oxhey Jets**. Mark Burfoot was the hero of the hour (and-a-half) when he scored in the second minute of added on time, claiming his third hat-trick of the season but more importantly securing a valuable last gasp victory over the visitors who played the whole of the second half with 10 men. Tim O'Mara gave Jets the lead in the 20<sup>th</sup> minute but Burfoot equalised not long afterwards. On the stroke of half time Lee Inch received a red card for deliberate handball on the goal line, and Burfoot put away the resultant penalty. Advantage Athletic in the second half, but

the Jets fought back and drew level when Lee Grace headed home in the 62<sup>nd</sup> minute. The game looked to be heading for a draw when Burfoot popped up at the end to complete his hat trick and seal the points for Athletic. There was still time left for Steve Brown to complete an unhappy day for the Jets as he got a second yellow, and therefore a red, just before the final whistle. **Aylesbury** moved up into third place as they completed a 3-1 home win over **Haringey Borough** – Craig Henney again on the mark with a brace with Dean Brennan adding a late third. **Leverstock Green** won their third game on the trot as they came from behind to beat visitors **Hanwell Town** 2-1 at a very windswept Pancake Lane. Hanwell took the lead in the last minute of the half, Anthony Rowlands sent over a wind-assisted cross from near the halfway line which fell to prolific striker Blaise O'Brien who made no mistake from a narrow angle. In the 54<sup>th</sup> minute, Lewis Pritchard defeated the offside trap to run through and pull Green level, and three minutes from the end, Dale Sears popped up with the winner. **Langford** and **Harefield United** have both suffered up and down seasons so far, but Langford came out on top of this mid table clash, winning 2-1 at Preston Park. All the goals came in the second half, Luke Smith's brace putting Langford in control, before Denver Morris scored a very late consolation for the Hares. The battle of the bottom two saw **Kentish Town** triumph 6-2 over **Welwyn Garden City**, and in so doing moved themselves above Haringey Boro and out of the immediate relegation zone. Six different scorers got on the scoresheet for Town, Jason Donlon in the first half, and Nick Antoniou, James Lindsay, Ossie Barkat, Thomas Looney and Joe O'Connor in the second. On the mark for the Citizens were Danny Fitzpatrick and Josh Danes. The other four games were postponed.

### DIVISION ONE

Leaders **Bedford Town Reserves** suffered a setback as they went down 2-1 away to **Ampthill Town**, who went two up through Gavin Hansell and Stuart Reynolds before Pete Thompson clawed one back for the leaders. A higher crowd than usual watched **Amersham Town's** local derby with **Holmer Green**, and although 16 league places separated the two sides, a keenly contested game resulted – the game being decided by a single goal scored after just 10 minutes by Holmer's Andy Shed. The three points gained enabled Holmer to close the gap at the top to two points, with four games in hand. With Hadley involved (or not) in FA Vase action, the next three sides all won to keep up the pressure on the leaders. **Crawley Green** came back from **Stony Stratford** with a 2-0 win, thanks to goals from Jon Cooper and Ryan McNabola, whilst a Lewis Toomey hat trick for **Kings Langley** helped them to a 4-2 win away at **Cranfield United**. There were five different scorers on the sheet for **New Bradwell St. Peter** in their 5-2 home win against **Buckingham Athletic**. Ben Hill, Joey Acheampong, Lea Coulter and John Mulholland gave Bradwell a four goal lead at half time, but Athletic pulled two

back shortly after the break, before Dave Holloway added Bradwell's fifth late in the game. The remaining three league games were postponed.

### DIVISION TWO

Just three games in this Division, and all concerned sides in the bottom half of the table. **The 61 FC** were the days biggest winners as they moved out of the bottom two following their 3-1 win away at fellow strugglers **Mursley United**. The home side took the lead after 25 minutes through Brian Nixon, but a brace from Aaron Lewis and one from Darius Pechota, all in the second half, ensured the three points. **Totternhoe** lost 2-0 away at **Bletchley Town**, for whom Steve Keane scored both goals, and **Old Bradwell United** went down 3-1 away at **Caddington**. The visitors must have enjoyed their Jaffas at half time, thanks to being in the lead through a Sam Edwards goal just before the break, but second half goals from Tony Scurry, Jack Downes and Adrian Millard turned the tables. Kent Athletic are nine points adrift at the foot of the table, but it's all very tight just above them with two points separating the next five clubs.

### DIVISION TWO CUP - 3<sup>rd</sup> ROUND

The second and third placed sides in the League clashed at **Aston Clinton** where **Padbury United** were the visitors, and the result was a win for third placed Aston Clinton by 4-1. Neil Roberts and Matty Tallyn put the home side two up inside 10 minutes, and although Dan Nicholls reduced the deficit for Padbury immediately after the break, Roberts scored a further two to send the home side into the Semi Finals, where they will be away to **MK Wanderers**, conquerors of **Wodson Park** by three goals to one. After a goalless first hour, the game sprang to life as Wanderers went into a three goal lead through Michael Crook, Adam Parrish and Leon Chickson, before Jack Friend scored Wodson's late consolation. Lawrence Bunker gave **Pitstone & Ivinghoe** a very early lead in their home game against **Berkhamsted**, but the league leaders fought back with a brace from Tony Burnett to claim their place in the other Semi Final. Their opponents will be either Old Bradwell Utd or Mursley Utd, who meet this Saturday.

### ANNUAL PROGRAMME MONTHLY AWARDS

Stuart Latham would like to thank those clubs who have sent in their programmes for judging, but there are still quite a few clubs who have not done so. If you wish your clubs to be entered, please send a copy of a current programme ASAP to Stuart Latham, 18 Bosworth Rd, Grange Park, Swindon, Wilts SN5 6AL

**All news, views, items of interest welcome**  
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