

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

**NEWSLETTER No. 14**  
*By Bill Scholes*

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*Three hat tricks this week, and all in the Premier Division. Joe Brittain scored all three of Chalfont St. Peter's goals on his debut against Brimsdown Rovers, Craig Henney's three were instrumental in Aylesbury's win over Colney Heath, and Matt Standen's three helped Hatfield Town beat Hillingdon Boro.*

**PREMIER DIVISION**

Yet another hat trick from Craig Henney and a goal from debutant Ross Lafayette, a recent signing from Wealdstone, enabled **Aylesbury FC** to conduct a fairly comprehensive 4-0 demolition job on leaders **Colney Heath**. On a horrible day, Henney gave Aylesbury the perfect start after just four minutes when he slotted home after early pressure from the visitors. Colney were lucky not to down to 10 men shortly afterwards when keeper Dave Clark received only a yellow card for picking the ball up just outside his area. There was no further scoring before half time, but the visitors dominated the second half – Henney's second was an exquisite lob over a stranded keeper, and the third superbly finished off an excellent flowing move down the right. This brought Henney's total of goals in all competitions to 34 so far this season – will he match Craig Hammond's feats of last year? **Tring Athletic** eschewed the chance to go level on points at the top, when they were held to a 1-1 draw at close rivals **Leverstock Green**. Vinnie Iannone put Athletic ahead after 35 minutes, but Gary Connolly's first goal for his club – scored in the 8<sup>th</sup> minute of added on time – ensured that the spoils were shared. Easily the day's biggest crowd (200) turned up at Garden Walk to see **Royston Town** take on visiting **Dunstable Town**. The Crows opened the scoring after 24 minutes through Arin Fehmi and Josh Bronti doubled the lead just before Jaffa time. Shortly after the break, Dunstable were back on level terms as Neal Perrin and Dan O'Connor pulled their side back into the game. With 15 minutes left, Ricky Young, helped by a deflection from the unfortunate Lee Burgoyne, shot the Crows back in front, but in the last minutes of the match, Terry Billy equalised and Lee Burgoyne made amends for his earlier error to score the last gasp winner from a free kick. **Chalfont St. Peter** put a stop to their run of defeats with a welcome 3-1 victory away at **Brimsdown Rovers**. The first goal came after just 24 seconds, and the scorer, new signing Joe Brittain, followed it up with two more in the second half to complete a debut hat trick. Manager Tony Faulkner's last game in charge of **Broxbourne Borough** resulted in a 2-1 win at home to

**Haringey Borough**. Murat Karagul put Broxbourne in front after 15 minutes, and Rob Kemble scored the winner with just 5 minutes remaining. This result keeps Haringey in second from bottom spot – just, as bottom club **Welwyn Garden City** closed the gap after their 3-0 win at home to **Harefield United**. The Citizens new manager Phil Reid saw goals from Luke Reid, Josh Dance and Stuart King hand the bottom club a welcome lifeline as they put an end to run of 9 straight league defeats. Another side to put a welcome end to a losing run were **Hatfield Town**, co-incidentally tenants of Welwyn, as they enjoyed a comprehensive 4-0 away victory over **Hillingdon Borough**. Matt Standen was Hatfield's hero with a hat trick, and Trevor Golder contributed from the penalty spot. Sadly, Hatfield's joy over the win was tempered by a late red card for returning skipper John McGrandles. **Kingsbury London Tigers** beat visitors **Langford** 2-0 with first half goals from Artiomus Darimovas and Gus Stewart, whilst **St. Margaretsbury** recorded the same scoreline in their home game with manager-less **Hertford Town**, Steve Barker and Mark Draper on the score sheet. **Hanwell Town** are nearly up to half way now, as they recorded their 5<sup>th</sup> win of the season – a relatively easy 5-0 romp at home to **Kentish Town**. Charlie Baverstock scored a couple, and Michael Buckley, Blaise O'Brien, and Chris Mills added the others. A brace each from Lee Inch and Karl Bull, plus singles from Wayne Gladly and Steve Brown saw **Oxhey Jets** flying high as they routed visitors **Biggleswade United** 6-0.

**DIVISION ONE**

New leaders this week as **Holmer Green** went top following their hard fought 2-1 win at home over **Tokington Manor**. Andy Shed put the Greens in front on 17<sup>th</sup> minutes, but Melford Simpson brought the scores level two minutes later. Eight minutes later Holmer were back in front when Simon Williams latched on to a loose ball to pop home. No easy game this for Holmer, as the Manor's giant strike force kept the home side's defence busy, and again young custodian Charlie Fanner was in fine form. This win puts Holmer back at the top of this division for the first time since 1999, when they pipped Hanwell Town for the title on goal difference. **Bedford Town Reserves** dropped to second following their 3-2 reverse at home to **Sun Postal Sports**, for whom Dean Collins, James Thompson and Steve Noonan were on target. Town's goals came from Guelor Mbala Massamba and Adam Boughton. There was another slightly surprising 3-2 home defeat at **Hadley**, where the home side went down to visiting **Amersham Town**. The vital winning goal came from Tobi Akin in the first minute of added on time, after Jimmy Hazell and Neil Robinson had cancelled out goals from Andy Parry and Luke Harmon. Bags of goals at Lowfield where **Hoddesdon Town** ran riot in their 6-3 win over **Stony Stratford Town**. There were doubles from Lee Tombs and Richie Howard, as well as singles from Luke Smith and Steve Cawley, whilst James Atherton, Ricky Foster and Gary Ridgeway were on target for Stony.

**Harpenden Town** beat **Buckingham Athletic** 3-0 where Andy Shed scored their opener after 33 minutes. Given that it's impossible to make the journey from Holmer to Buckingham in 16 minutes, I presume there is a doppelganger about! Chris Gregory scored Harpenden's other two. **New Bradwell St Peter** kept in touch at the top with a 2-1 win away at **Kings Langley**, whilst **London Colney** did likewise with their 2-0 win at home to **Cockfosters**.

## DIVISION TWO

**Risborough Rangers** took leaders **Berkhamsted** right to the wire before losing out to a late Steve Flain goal in a seven goal thriller at Broadwater. The leaders got off to flyer in the first minute with a Tony Burnett goal, but by half time Risboro were in front with goals from Ashley Beswick and a header from Andy Hird. Back came Berko after the break, and Flain's first, and one from James Armstrong put them back in the lead. It was now Risboro's turn to fight back, and Hird's second of the game levelled the scores, but then up popped Flain with his winner. On a very wet and windy afternoon at Kents Hill, **MK Wanderers** hosted second placed **Padbury United** and in a scrappy game, it was Padbury that just gained all the points with a narrow 1-0 win. The game was rather spoilt by a strong crosswind but this only affected in part this disjointed, error strewn match. However, the Wanderers had the best chances of the first half but wasted all three of them by poor finishing. The Padbury keeper, Andy Partlow, was only troubled once and he made an outstanding save to deny a certain goal on 26 minutes. Padbury were unlucky to see a header hit the home post and bounce clear and another effort just beat the far post. The second half was little better as Wanderers wasted another chance by shooting wide when through on goal. The only goal of the game came ironically from a defensive mistake as a home defender played a back pass to his keeper only for Danny Nicholls to intercept the ball and score from a narrow angle on 63 minutes. Whilst for the remainder of the match both teams huffed and puffed, another goal looked unlikely and it was a relief for the watching spectators when the referee blew for full time. **Aston Clinton** remain a dangerous third, after coming away from **Bucks Student Union** with a 3-1 win. Goals came from Steve Powell and an Aaron Usmani double before Phil Nugent got a late consolation for the Students. **Wodson Park** and **Pitstone & Ivinghoe**, in 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> places, both emerged victorious from their home matches. Wodson beat bottom club **Kent Athletic** 3-0 with goals from Ally Waldron, Steve Halsey and Tyler Hatherly, whilst Pitstone ran out 4-1 winners over **Bletchley Town**. Mitch Hamilton, John Bentley and Lawrence Bunker gave the villagers into a three goal lead at half time, and although Jim Carmichael pulled one back early in the second half, Bunker scored again to maintain the three goal gap. **Tring Corinthians** narrowly failed to make it a clean sweep of top 6 victories, as, although leading for a good part of the game through Neil Richardson, they

allowed home side **Totternhoe** to snatch a share of the points with an equaliser two minutes from the end from James McCarthy.

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

A 75<sup>th</sup> minute goal from Ed Mills was enough for Mursley **United** to progress at the expense of home side **Old Bradwell United**. Mursley will now meet Berkhamsted in the Semi Finals.

## F.A. Carlsberg VASE UPDATE

The last round was rather protracted due to postponements etc, but now that the dust has settled, we know that we have three sides left to carry the SSMFL flag. Commiserations to both Hadley and Bedford, who lost out on their midweek trips to East Anglia, but congratulations to Hoddesdon Town who at least went to Wembley, if only to Vale Farm, rather than the Stadium and returned with a hard fought 2-1 victory, both goals coming from Steve Cawley. Hoddesdon are our only Step 6 club left in the Competition, and they are rewarded with a home tie against Lowestoft based Kirkley & Pakefield, who beat Biggleswade Utd in the last round. Our two Step 5 clubs also have home draws – Royston Town will play Colchester based Stanway Rovers, who beat Hadley in the last round, and Brimsdown Rovers host Newport Pagnell Town from the UCL.

## ALL CHANGE AT HERTFORD TOWN

Hertford Town are currently lacking both a Chairman and a Manager. Chairman Mick Clarke resigned a few weeks ago, and player / manager Pablo Ardiles left the club last weekend.

## ONE CHANGE AT WELWYN GARDEN CITY

After just one month in the hot seat, Paul Gurney has been replaced as manager of Welwyn Garden City by 49year old Phil Reid, whose past clubs include Dagenham & Redbridge and Barnet.

## AND ANOTHER CHANGE AT BROXBOURNE BORO

Tony Faulkner, manager at the Boro for the last 5 years, left the club at the weekend to join Ryman One North club Ware. Unsurprisingly, a couple of players have made the short journey up the A10 with him, and both Ryan Wade, currently on his 4<sup>th</sup> club this season, and Bradley Drisdale played for their new club during the week.

**All news, views, items of interest etc to  
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