

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

**NEWSLETTER No. 15**  
*By Bill Scholes*

**Saturday 28 November 2009**

An unusual occurrence this week was the abandonment of two games due to floodlight failure – one at Harefield and one at Stony Stratford. Neither failure was the fault of the clubs involved, - both due to circumstances beyond their control.

*Just the two hat tricks this week – Steve Barker for St. Margaretsbury in their 5-1 win at Langford and Lewis Toomey for Kings Langley in their 5-3 win over Croxley Guild.*

**PREMIER DIVISION**

It's all change at the top as **Colney Heath** slipped down to third place following their second successive defeat, this time losing 3-0 at local rivals **Hatfield Town**, in front of 184 spectators – the day's biggest gate. Hatfield, co-incidentally, were recording their second successive league win. Daniel Broux put Hatfield on their way in the 20<sup>th</sup> minute, lobbing keeper Dave Clark, and Trevor Golder doubled the lead just before half time with swerving shot from 20 yards out. The game was virtually over as a contest a couple of minutes after the break when Broux curled a shot around Clark for his second of the game. **Aylesbury** are the new leaders after coming from two goals down to beat visitors **Royston Town** 3-2. Ryan Lockett scored twice for the Crows in the opening 20 minutes, but Matt Hayward reduced the deficit 5 minutes later. The second half belonged to Aylesbury, and they sealed the victory with two penalties – the first by Craig Henney and the second from sub Nathan Graham. **Tring Athletic** moved up into second place with their 2-1 win at home to **Kingsbury London Tigers**. Tigers took the lead in the first half through Edson Cata, but two second half goals from Tony Fields and Brett Court were enough to claim the three points. **Hanwell Town** followed up their 6-2 midweek victory over Haringey Boro with an excellent 3-0 win away at title challengers **Dunstable Town**, who slipped back to 5<sup>th</sup> spot as a consequence. On the mark for Hanwell were Chris Mills in the first half, and Blaise O'Brien and Jason Tucker in the second. Another side stringing two successive wins together were **Chalfont St. Peter**, who defeated bottom club **Welwyn Garden City** 4-0. The hosts got off to great start as Danny Hughes took advantage of a defensive error to rifle a left footed drive beyond the keeper, and shortly after skipper John Carroll placed a superb curling free kick into the top corner. Chalfont were dominating the game and Welwyn would have been pleased to go into the break only two down. Welwyn possess one of the most voluble keepers in the league, but even his "conversations" with the referee and his own team could not prevent the Saints scoring twice more, through Lee Togwell and Adam Louth. **Broxbourne Borough** recovered from the loss of losing their manager as they came away from **Kentish Town** with a 2-0 win – Jimmy Martin and Matt Watts on target. **St. Margaretsbury** were able to leapfrog over **Langford** as a result of their emphatic 5-1 win up at Forde Park. Bury's goals included a hat trick from Steve

Barker and a brace from Joe Rudkin. **Biggleswade United** put a bit of daylight between themselves and the bottom three following their welcome 2-1 win away at **Hillingdon Borough**. Jack Gabbitas scored both United's goals. For the second successive week, **Leverstock Green** were indebted to a very late equaliser for a share of the points – this time an attempted clearance by the **Hertford Town** keeper hit Matt Wardle full in the face, nearly knocking him out, but rebounding into the net. Earlier, Dominic Musafiri had given the Blues a 53<sup>rd</sup> minute lead. The match between **Harefield United** and **Oxhey Jets** was abandoned after 74 minutes, due to a local power cut – the Hares were miffed as they were leading 2-0 at the time.

**DIVISION ONE**

A solitary goal from Andy Shed, after just three minutes, was enough to see **Holmer Green** to a 1-0 win away at **Bedford**. They now have a four point lead at the top of the table with a game in hand on nearest challengers **Hadley** who produced a good 3-1 win against in form **AFC Dunstable**, but it was not until the last two minutes that Jamie Hazell's second goal made sure of all three points. Earlier, Hazell opened the scoring on 10 minute and Jesse Reynolds doubled the lead just before the half hour mark. Hayden Wills then pulled one back for AFC to keep Hadley on tenterhooks until Hazell's timely second goal. **New Bradwell St. Peter** completed a 2-0 win away at **Cockfosters**, with a brace from Lea Coulter, one in each half and **Crawley Green** kept in touch with the promotion chasing pack following their 3-1 win at home to **Amersham Town**. **Buckingham Athletic** visited bottom club **Brache Sparta CFC** and came back with a 4-0 victory – Oliver Prentiss with a pair, Scott Latham and Jamie O'Callaghan being the scorers. **Harpenden Town** also recorded a 4-0 win on their travels at **Cranfield United** – three first half goals from Dave Keenleyside, Mark Hitchcock and Andy Soul, and one in the second from Ben Dawes seeing them home. At the foot of the table, **Tokington Manor** moved clear of the relegation zone with a 4-1 win at home to second from bottom **Sport London e Benfica**. Manor's goals came from Dominic Rhone, Daniel Boateng, Tom Crouch and Tim Maynard, whilst Djibril Djalo was SLB's sole scorer. The lights went out at **Stony Stratford Town** with visitors **Amphill Town** leading 3-2 after 60 minutes, and the match was duly abandoned. This was a great pity as the match was an exciting affair, which promised much in the second half. Alas it was not to be and there must be some coincidence that as the Christmas lights were turned on in the High Street, the floodlights when off at Ostlers Lane!

**DIVISION TWO**

It's neck and neck at the top of this division as the half way mark approaches. **Padbury United** just edged home 2-1 against **The 61 FC** and in so doing cut Berkhamsted's lead at the top to just one point. Close at hand are **Aston Clinton**, following their 6-3 win over **Risborough Rangers**, and they have a game in hand on the leaders. Neil Roberts and Steve Powell both got doubles, and Taurean O'Sullivan and Peter Weirich came up with the other two. Risboro's scorers were Ashley Beswick, Martin Griggs and Chris Green. **Wodson Park** just edged out **Pitstone & Ivinghoe** in a seven goal thriller, with three goals coming in the last seven minutes. Lawrence Bunker twice gave Pitstone the lead,

only for first Scott Brunton and then Ross Murphy to draw the visitors level. Tyler Hatherly then put Wodson in front for the first time with just seven minutes left and although Danny Whitmarsh evened it up a couple of minutes later, Hatherly struck right at the death to send Wodson home happy. **Bucks Student Union** got back to winning ways with a 4-0 home victory over **Bletchley Town**. The returning Daddy Moses struck twice, an OG helped and Philip Nugent scored the fourth. **Kent Athletic**, still searching for their first win, managed their fourth point of the season with a 2-2 draw at home to **Caddington**, but are now 8 points adrift at the foot of the table.

### HERTS SENIOR CENTENARY TROPHY -2<sup>nd</sup> ROUND

**London Colney** eased into the next round with a 1-0 win away at **Park Street Village**, thanks to a Danny Fitzgerald goal. **Hoddesdon Town** were taken to extra time by **Met Police Bushey**, but two goals from Steve Cawley and Craig Hinton, one in each period, saw them through. **Kings Langley** were also taken to extra time by visitors **Croxley Guild**, but they eventually went through 5-3, helped by a hat trick from Lewis Toomey. **Tring Corinthians** unfortunately lost 3-2 away at **Codicote**, the home side scoring twice in the last three minutes to clinch the tie.

### ANAGRAM RECORDS TROPHY -2<sup>nd</sup> ROUND

**MK Wanderers** went down 4-1 at home to **London Lions**, but **Berkhamsted** moved into the 3<sup>rd</sup> Round with a 3-1 win at home to **Cuffley**. This was Berkhamsted's 7<sup>th</sup> win on the trot and they are enjoying a good November, winning both league games, as well as reaching two cup semi finals and one quarter final.

### NEW CHANGING FACILITIES AT NEW BRADWELL GRAND OPENING

Local MP, Mark Lancaster officially opened the impressive new changing room facilities at New Bradwell St. Peter on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November at 3pm. The ceremony was attended by numerous New Bradwell Sports Association members, local supporters, Brian Moore from the Berks & Bucks FA and Bob Flight and Mick Ewen who represented the League. (Mr Flight lives up in that part of the world and Mr Ewen will go anywhere for a free drink). The new facilities include state of the art changing rooms, new floodlight training area, the conversion of the old changing rooms into match day toilet facilities for spectators, including disabled and an enlarged member's bar area. The total cost of the facilities was helped by funding of £87,469 from the Football Stadia Improvement Fund who are supporters of the Football Foundation and the largest funder of non-league football in the country. MP Mark Lancaster said "I was delighted to have been involved with supporting the club recently and share with the local community great pleasure in seeing the excellent new facilities." Brian Clarke of the New Bradwell Sports Association said "This will enable both the football and cricket sections to maintain their high standards of facilities for players, officials and spectators alike."

### RAY WARD

Congratulations go out to Referee Ray Ward who officiated on his 2000<sup>th</sup> game on Saturday at Langford. Ray is now in his 35<sup>th</sup> season of wearing the black, and he started his refereeing career in 1975. In 180 he joined the South Midlands League, as it was then, before moving upwards through the ranks of the Isthmian League and onto the Football League. Like a lot of other good referees at the time, Ray faced compulsory retirement from the Football League due to the age criteria and returned to his roots in the Spartan South Midlands League, where he can impart his wealth of knowledge and experience to a new generation.

### DIGNITARIES AT BERKHAMSTED

Berko's game against Cuffley was played in front of a trio from the Civic Centre including the Town Mayor David Collins and Town Clerk Colin Westwood. It was the council's first visit since helping with finance to set up the new club in the summer after the old Town club folded. Liam Gallagher (of Oasis fame for you older readers) has recently been photographed wearing a Berko shirt that was autographed and will be auctioned at a future fund raising event.

### MORE NEW MANAGERS

**Broxbourne Boro** acted swiftly to replace the departed Tony Faulkner, and they have appointed Mark Beels as the new boss. Beels has previously run a successful Boro Reserve side, and has already signed 6 new players. There is also a new man in the hot seat at **Buckingham Athletic**, and he is Paul Bowley, who has been promoted from Reserve manager.

### TITTLE TATTLE

It has been brought to my attention that Fixture Secretary Eric Harrison recently locked himself in a cupboard (don't ask) and had to smash it to pieces to get out. Rumour has it that pictures of Eric in a tutu will shortly be appearing on You Tube! Sources other than Mick Ewen himself have recently hinted that our current Referees Secretary did actually run around himself wearing a black suit, and this was confirmed last week when Mr Ewen actually took charge (well, he was in the middle with his trusty Acme Thunderer) of an Essex Sunday league game. When interviewed after the game, and between his third fag and second pint, he stated "I'm cream-crackered."

In closing, we would like to wish the very best of luck to our three clubs who are in action in the F.A. Vase this weekend. All are at home – Royston Town host Stanway Rovers, Brimsdown Rovers play Newport Pagnell Town and Hoddesdon Town, winners of the very first Vase Final back in 1975, are at home to Kirkley & Pakefield.

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