

MOLTEN SPORTS
SPARTAN SOUTH MIDLANDS FOOTBALL LEAGUE

NEWSLETTER No. 17

By Bill Scholes

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There were 3 hat trick heroes this week, and all in Division One. Bernie Christie scored three for AFC Dunstable in their 5-1 win, Dave Pigden notched three out of Cockfosters 4-1 win, and Daniel Boateng claimed all three for Tokyngton Manor in their 3-1 win.

PREMIER DIVISION

Aylesbury and Tring Athletic remain locked together at the top of the table following their respective victories, although Aylesbury do have 3 games in hand over their opponents. Two goals in the first half from Ross Lafayette and Nathan Graham enabled **Aylesbury** to beat visitors **Hillingdon Borough** 2-0 – Boro playing the last 15 minutes with 10 men, whilst **Tring** came back from **Hertford Town** with a 4-2 under their belt. Darren Franklin and Chris Salmon gave Athletic a two goal lead, but two second half goals from Pablo Ardiles and Rob Luya brought the Blues back to level pegging before two late strikes from Ashley Addison secured the victory for Athletic. **Colney Heath** remain in third spot following their 3-0 win away at **Biggleswade United** whilst **Broxbourne Borough** fell 3-0 victims to a topsy-turvy **Harefield United** whose goals were scored by Alex Brown, Denzel Morris and Tom Kirk. *Harefield confirmed their good form on Tuesday night with a 3-0 win away at leaders Aylesbury.* Another side whose form is up and down are **Langford**, and they recorded a 4-1 win at home to bottom club **Welwyn Garden City**, thanks to two goals from Ben L'Honre and singles from Gus Stewart and Luke Smith. In a mid table struggle, **Kingsbury London Tigers** came back from going a goal down from Dale Archer at **Brimdson Rovers** to run out 2-1 winners thanks to two strikes from Renars Zarchenko and Artiomas Barinovas, whilst **Leverstock Green**, who were also on their travels, had a 3-0 win at **St. Margaretsbury** courtesy of a brace from Lewis Pritchard and one from Matt Wardle. A bumper crowd of 114 took advantage of the festive offer of free admission at Hens Lane to see **Hatfield Town** battle out a 2-2 draw with visitors **Oxhey Jets**. After being reduced to 10 men on 20 minutes, and going behind from the resultant penalty, scored by Luke Beardsworth, Hatfield put up a brave fight to come back and secure a share of the points. Lewis Owen equalised with a 40 yard free kick shortly after the break, but Chris Harding restored the Jets lead six minutes later, only for Matt Standen to rescue Hatfield's afternoon shortly afterwards. The games between **Kentish Town** and **Royston Town**, **Haringey Borough** and **Dunstable Town** and **Hanwell Town** and **Chalfont St. Peter** were postponed.

DIVISION ONE

League leaders **Holmer Green**'s four-month unbeaten league run was brought to an abrupt end at Watchet Lane when they went down 3-0 to **London Colney**, who have proved to be Holmer's Achilles heel so far this season – Colney having won the two previous Cup encounters. The visitors dominated the game from the get go and opened the scoring after just 8 minutes when left back Corran scored with his right foot, the one which even his watching parents admitted couldn't even burst a balloon, - the shot sailing

past a bemused Charlie Fanner in goal. Colney continued to be the only side posing a threat, with only the non stop running of Andy Shed causing the Colney rearguard any problems. Up front, Colney's Paul Danslow was always a danger, and Josh Humbert patrolled midfield like a colossus. Gary Finch made Holmer's task much more difficult before half time when he foolishly received two yellow cards, one for dissent and the other for a tackle, in the space of a minute leaving the Greens to battle on with just 10 men. In the 70th minute sub Greg Shaw struck a low free kick past Fanner to double Colney's lead, and although Holmer brought on Simon Williams and Jamie Hunt to give Shed some much needed support up front, the midfield creativity was missing, and in stoppage time Russell Gallagher capped a fine game for the visitors with a right foot shot into the corner as Holmer failed to clear their lines. This win, Colney's sixth on the trot, moves them nicely up into 4th place. **Cranfield United** played hosts to near neighbours **New Bradwell St. Peter** and recorded a much needed 2-1 win, only their fourth league win this season, to ease their relegation worries and put a dent in Bradwell's promotion hopes.. A much improved Cranfield started well from the off and they dominated the early play and had an early chance cleared off the Bradwell goal line and another shot that just cleared the bar. Bradwell had a couple of shots blocked and missed a great chance on 30 minutes when a forward was through on goal but was crowded out and the ball went for a corner kick. The opening Cranfield goal came just on the stroke of half time when Kevin Hyde passed to Marc Redsull to score from the edge of the box. The second half saw much of the same as Cranfield continued to dominate play and had a chance to increase their lead on 60 minutes but the Bradwell keeper saved well. However, all this pressure counted for nothing as against the run of play Bradwell broke away and Joey Acheampong scored from a right wing cross on 67 minutes to level the scores. Cranfield pressed hard for the winner but a mixture of good keeping plus a few wayward shots kept the teams level as time added on approached. Just when the home supporters were thinking that two points had been thrown away, up came full back Maz Lagioia to score the winner from a cross cum shot which sailed over the keeper and into the top of the Bradwell net deep into injury time. The game ended shortly afterwards and a revived Cranfield gained a valuable three points. **Bedford Town Reserves** moved back up to second following their 1-0 win at home to **Stony Stratford Town**- Jermaine Ivy scoring the important goal. **Hadley Green** following Crawley's late, late equaliser, Danny Gruar having given Hadley the lead early in the second half. **AFC Dunstable** had a relatively easy 5-1 win at home to struggling **Sport London e Benfica**, helped by three goals from Bernie Christie, and fellow strugglers **Brache Sparta CFC** also succumbed 4-1 to **Cockfosters** – this time it was Dave Pigden who was on the scoresheet three times. The third hat trick in this Division came from Daniel Boateng who notched all of **Tokyngton Manor**'s goals in their 3-1 win away at **Bedford** – Robbie Goodman replying for the hosts. Jamie O'Callaghan managed a late winner for **Buckingham Athletic** in their 1-0 win over visitors **Sun Postal Sports**, whilst their ex player Gavin Hansell scored the only goal for **Amptill Town** in their 1-0 win away at **Hoddesdon Town**. Craig Preston scored twice, the second in the 2nd minute of added on time, to ensure **Kings Langley** gained a point in their 2-2 draw at home to **Harpenden Town**, for whom Joe Burgess and Chris Gregory scored.

DIVISION TWO

Despite having a player sent off early on, **Aston Clinton** triumphed over local rivals **Tring Corinthians** 2-1 to go top of the table. A goal apiece from Peter Weirich and new signing, from Corrie, Joynul Huque was enough to claim all three points. **Pitstone & Ivinghoe** closed the gap on the leaders after their 2-1 win at home to **MK Wanderers** – Matt Holt and John Bentley putting the villagers two up before Jordan Nash pulled one back for the visitors. **Bucks Student Union** are now 6th following their 3-2 win at home to **The 61 FC** who have dropped into the bottom three. On the mark in the first half for the Students were Steve McQueen, Sam Wadieh and Phil Nugent, but Dick Everett's boys fought back valiantly in the second half to reduce the deficit. **Totternhoe** moved away from the re-election zone with a 4-2 win over **Old Bradwell United**, who now find themselves back in the bottom two. Another side beginning to put daylight between themselves and the bottom clubs is **Bletchley Town**, and they enjoyed a fine 4-2 win away at **Caddington**. Nine man **Risborough Rangers** battled back from a goal down to secure a well earned 1-1 draw against **Mursley United** in a game that also saw Mursley reduced to 10 men. Ed Mills gave Mursley the lead on the half hour mark, but Rob Firth smashed home the equaliser with 18 minutes left.

HERTS CENTENARY TROPHY -2nd ROUND

A shock exit for high flying **Berkhamsted** who went down 5-2 away at SSMFL rivals **Wodson Park**. As the hour mark passed, Wodson were leading by five clear goals, but Berko pulled a couple back late on

ANAGRAM RECORDS TROPHY -2nd ROUND

Progress into the 3rd Round for **Padbury United** who won a tight game 1-0 away at **Hutton**

TEAMS OF THE MONTH

Congratulations to the following teams who won the Molten Sports Team of the Month Awards for November:-

Premier Division: Hanwell Town

Division One: Hoddesdon Town

Division Two: Aston Clinton

Golden (or rather Orange) balls will be speeding their way to you shortly.

ANOTHER NEW MANAGER

Changes at Hillingdon Borough where manager Steve Hales resigned a couple of weeks ago: the new man in the hot seat is John Nolan.

Coming up is the Saturday before Christmas – as a festive treat, wouldn't it be nice to have no Yellow or Red cards?

All news, views, items of interest etc to

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