

MOLTEN SPORTS
SPARTAN SOUTH MIDLANDS FOOTBALL LEAGUE

NEWSLETTER No. 21
By Bill Scholes

Saturday 9th - Wed 13th January 2010

Yet another white-out over the last few days, and I guess we are all starting to get a bit of cabin fever. Sadly, I don't think the prospects for the weekend look too good either – even though some of the snow is beginning to melt, there is going to be a vast amount of water lying around. I know a number of main roads are now clear, and the snow is disappearing, but it's still like a winter wonderland over here. If anyone wants any spare snow, we can oblige!

With diddley-squat to write about on the football front, I am very indebted to our Scottish correspondent for the article below.

HOW TO RAISE A SMILE WITH YOUR UNWANTED KIT

Over the past few seasons, the League has been asked by several clubs if there is anyone who would benefit from jerseys, shorts, socks and boots that would otherwise be kicked into touch as teams prepare to replace them with new and resplendent kit.

For a number of years, referee and committee member, Bill Hamilton, was delighted to accept kit donations which he despatched to Albania at a time when the country was slowly throwing off the shackles of a Stalinist dictatorship. Since then, Albania has been slowly emerging into the new world and the need is not what it once was.

But despair not ... Bill tells us that there is a remarkable charity running in Hertfordshire called *Kit Aid* which will be very happy to receive all your unwanted kit (provided you've been kind enough to wash and iron it!!) which will be sent to adults and children across Africa, Asia and Eastern Europe.

The charity's patron is Watford FC's new Chairman and former England manager, Graham Taylor. It started operations about ten years ago when Derrick Williams, a Three Valleys Water employee, visited Tanzania with the charity Water Aid. Derrick, who is passionate about football, realized

that children there were playing the game in their bare feet and a pair of baggy, holed shorts. The footballs were made of tied string and plastic bags!

On his return home he set up *Kit Aid*. Since then, 10,000 adults and children have received shirts, kit and footballs in 30 countries including Tanzania, Ghana, Mali, Burkina Faso, Nigeria and Eastern Europe. Donations can include unwanted replica shirts – England, Premiership, Football League, foreign teams. Used or unused team football kits – shorts and shirts, goalkeepers' gloves and football boots.

The latest donation of kit has come from the Sir Bobby Robson Foundation which generously gave thousands of football shirts that were laid by fans in Sir Bobby's memory at grounds all over the country.

Here's your chance to put a smile on someone else's face as you try to fight off the winter blues!

Your kit collections should be delivered or sent to:

Kit Aid, c/o Veolia Water Three Valleys, Tamblin Way, Hatfield,
Hertfordshire AL10 9EZ

Tel: 01707 277689

E-mail: kidaid.central@veoliawater.co.uk

Thanks Bill – if you have any unwanted kits, please do donate them.

Although not mentioned in the article, referees kits are of course also welcome – there must be a number of you who have come home, thrown the kit in the corner and said "That's it – I'm not doing that again!" Bill has already donated his streamlined snug-fit Lycra kit to the charity – he claims he would have given his normal kit as well, but said it was in tatters – adoring well wishers, he said did the damage, but much more likely to be angry members of Old Lobbottians 9th XI. Apparently, the Referees Secretary also tried to donate his kit, but it was redirected to the Basildon Empire for next season's Pantomime.

Fingers crossed for Saturday, and the very best of luck to our two representatives left in the FA Vase, should they play. Royston Town are at home to Tipton Town and Brimsdown Rovers are at home to Daventry Town.

As always, please send in any news, views, items of interest etc - to
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