

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

**NEWSLETTER No. 24**  
*By Bill Scholes*

**Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2010**

I think I might have been a tad optimistic last week writing about the return of our beautiful game, as Jack Frost popped back up on Saturday morning to bite quite a few clubs on the bottom. In fact, out of a scheduled fixture list of 43 games, just over half (23) were postponed, creating even more problems for our cuddly and loveable fixture secretaries.

*There were still enough games for three hat trick heroes to make their mark – Charlie Strutton for Chalfont St. Peter in the Premier Division, and James Armstrong, with four, and Adam Mead for Berkhamsted in Division Two.*

**PREMIER DIVISION**

**Brimdown Rovers** were playing their 4<sup>th</sup> game in 7 days when they entertained top of the table **Aylesbury**, but no doubt buoyed by reaching the semi final of the League Challenge Cup on Thursday, they held the table toppers to a 0-0 draw. The point gained by Aylesbury was enough to keep them in top spot, as their close rivals **Tring Athletic** lost 2-0 at home to derby rivals **Leverstock Green**. Once upon a time, this game would have resembled a scene from Grand Theft Auto 9, but the modern version was remarkably tame. In front of the day's biggest crowd of 152, both goals came in the second half, the first just after the hour mark from Matt Wardle, who rounded keeper Mike Underwood to slot home, and the second, in time added on at the end, from Gary Connolly. This was Leverstock's fourth win on the bounce, all of them away, and stretched their unbeaten run to 11 games. **Chalfont St. Peter** eased quietly into second place with their sixth consecutive victory, this time a 7-1 walloping away at **Langford**. Skipper John Carroll headed the Saints into a very early lead, but Lee Pateman gave the hosts a glimmer of hope when he equalised after 11 minutes, but it was just that.....a glimmer, as Carroll added his second, Charlie Strutton went one better with three goals, and Barry Brosnan and Danny Hughes added two more late on to compound Langford's misery. **Harefield United** moved up into the top six for the first time this season as they came away from **St. Margaretsbury** with all three points following their 3-1 victory. Jamie Houlston and Paul Haynes put the Hares into two goal lead inside 25 minutes, but although Scott McGuinness reduced the deficit shortly before the break, Jack Reader's goal 12 minutes from time wrapped

up the points. In the Divisions only other game, **Haringey Borough** moved out of the bottom two, as they won 1-0 away at **Biggleswade United**, courtesy of a goal from Lee Allen in the 68<sup>th</sup> minute.

**DIVISION ONE**

Just two games managed to beat the weather in this division, and both up in the same part of the world. In bright sunshine on a heavy pitch, **Buckingham Athletic** hosted lowly **Amersham Town** at Stratford Fields and it was the home team that triumphed by 3 goals to 1. The early chance fell to Buckingham but with the opportunity to chip the keeper, the forward failed to find the net. The opening goal however went to Amersham when the home defence gave away possession and Jamie Gumbs scored from close range on 26 minutes. Buckingham equalised from a corner kick when somehow Craig Howkins squeezed the ball into the net at the near post on 32 minutes. The second half was an even affair but Buckingham spurned an early chance when the forward was through on goal but the ball was sent wide of the net. Amersham also had a chance, but a good save by Dean O'Dell in the home goal kept the scores level. With Buckingham pressing forward they went ahead following another corner when a goal bound effort hit the top of the post and Jamie Benjafield headed home the rebound on 73 minutes. Buckingham made the game safe when Benjafield hit his second goal of the match as he broke clear to score with a shot from the edge of the box on 82 minutes. Thanks must go to all the players, the match officials and the home ground staff for providing an entertaining game on a very difficult pitch. A few miles up the road, **Stony Stratford Town** entertained second from bottom **Sport London e Benfica** and moved three places up the table following their 4-0 win. However, it wasn't all plain sailing for the home side, as although they led by a Barry Bellhouse goal after 20 minutes, they were made to wait until the last quarter of an hour before three goals from Shaun Carr (penalty), Tom Castle and Bellhouse again, secured all three points.

**DIVISION TWO**

Leaders **Berkhamsted** had an emphatic 10-3 victory away at **Mursley United**, helped by four goals from James Armstrong and three from Adam Mead. Tony Burnett contributed a brace, and Jamie Gavin got the other. On the scoresheet for the home side were Chris Pittam with a pair, and Jakub Kasprzyk. On the same number of points is **Aston Clinton** who enjoyed a narrow 1-0 win at home to challengers **Wodson Park**, thanks to Neil Roberts' 20<sup>th</sup> minute strike. **Padbury United** also recorded a narrow 1-0 win at home to **Tring Corinthians**, Rocky Williams being the goalscorer in the 19<sup>th</sup> minute, and as a result they move above Wodson Park into third spot. **Bucks Student Union** enjoyed their away day at

**Pitstone & Ivinghoe**, coming back with a 3-0 victory. On the mark for the Students were Sam Wadieh in the first half, and Steve McQueen and Jack Edmeads in the second. **The 61 FC's** revival continues as they recorded a 1-0 win away at **Bletchley Town**, courtesy of Alex Bennett's 32<sup>nd</sup> minute goal. **Totternhoe** are another club enjoying resurgence and that continued with an excellent 5-0 win at home to **Old Bradwell United**. A Gary Davis OG got them on their way, and Stefan Tracey and Ryan Keeble added two more before the break. Glen Sizer and Kieran Wilkinson added to the score in the second half.

### **NEWS FROM BUCKINGHAM ATHLETIC**

The refurbishment of the clubhouse at Buckingham Athletic nears completion. Buckingham Athletics' long term plans are nearing completion with the refurbishment of their clubhouse and car park area. Chairman John Webb said that the major building work is due to be completed by the end of February and the fitting out shortly afterwards. The improved facility will be able to host numerous social and sporting events, which will help the finances of the club. Indeed, there is already a healthy looking events diary bookings programme. The car park will also be extended and resurfaced and will be used as a public pay & display parking area for the town of Buckingham outside of match days. There will be no charges on match days or evening games for any supporters or visiting teams. The second phase of the plan will be to relocate the dressing rooms to the area next to the main stand to comply with the required ground grading. No date is yet available for this phase of the works.

### **CRAIG HAMMOND LOANED TO AFC SUDBURY**

Last season's leading goalscorer in the SSMFL, Craig Hammond, who was signed by Blue Square Conference Histon from Royston Town in the summer, is spending a month on loan at Zamaretto League Division One Midlands side AFC Sudbury. Hammond recently turned down a chance to join UCL side St. Neots Town on a temporary basis, but is hoping a spell at Sudbury will revive his career with Histon. He has only scored once for Histon this season – a late equaliser against Kidderminster Harriers back in September.

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