

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

**NEWSLETTER No. 27**  
*By Bill Scholes*

**Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2010**

**Although the majority of games were completed, there were 12 postponements, with Uncle Eric faring the worst with 8 of them in Division Two and the two Reserve divisions. Many of the games that did get the go ahead however, were played on very heavy surfaces, and some extremely tired legs resulted.**

*The going didn't deter the hat trick heroes, however, and there were six of them - five in the Premier Division. Lee Armitt headed the list with four for Oxhey Jets, whilst normal threes were recorded by Danny Ward of Broxbourne got three, whilst Nick Jackson, Dan O'Connor and Russell Preston scored three each in Dunstable Town's 12-0 romp is this a record? Lee Herring was on the mark for Tring Corinthians in Division Two.*

#### **PREMIER DIVISION**

**No change at the top as the leading three teams all won their games, but a gap is beginning to open between these three and the chasing pack.** Leaders **Chalfont St. Peter** had a fairly comfortable afternoon as they extended their recent unbeaten run to 11 games, disposing of **Brimsdown Rovers** 5-1. Ten out of the eleven games have been won, and in so doing they have recorded a total of 37 goals – not a bad average. For the third game running they scored three goals in the first half – Danny Hughes, Charlie Strutton and Alan Hedley finding the net. It was almost four, but Ben Stack's goal came a minute after the break! Rovers were rewarded with a goal from Adam Moss three minutes later, but sub Jude Eboji extended the Saints lead in the 62<sup>nd</sup> minute shortly after coming on. Not surprisingly in the heavy conditions, the game flagged somewhat in the last half hour as it meandered to a close. **Tring Athletic** faced a tricky away game at **Royston Town** in front of the day's biggest crowd (141), but kept their title hopes intact with a 2-0 victory. Not surprisingly, given the recent weather, the pitch was not in the best of condition but despite this handicap both sides tried to play football rather than take the easier options of hitting long balls. Tring took the lead in the 21<sup>st</sup> minute when Graham Hall picked out Vinnie Iannone in the area and controlled the ball on his chest before volleying the ball past the keeper. Athletic extended their lead in the second period when skipper Graham Hall struck home Danny Gray's corner. Third placed **Aylesbury** also faced a tricky encounter away at **Hanwell Town**, but came back with a 2-1 win, thanks to Kevin Mealor's goal in the second half. Grant Carney had earlier put Aylesbury in front before Aonghus Martin equalised just before half time. Fourth place **Colney Heath** are

now six points adrift as they allowed local rivals **Hatfield Town** to claim bragging rights with a 2-0 win. Goals from Lewis Field and John McGrandles in the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> minutes secured the three points and lifts Hatfield further away from dangers of relegation. This win means Trevor Lloyd's side completed the double over their rivals this season after a 3-0 home victory in November, and was undoubtedly made sweeter by the fact that Colney Heath are managed by former Hatfield playing duo Scott Lacey and Wes Awad. **Harefield United** moved up into 5<sup>th</sup> place above Leverstock Green as they won 2-1 away at **Langford**. The Hares took the lead in the 28<sup>th</sup> minute through Danny Buckle, and although Lee Harman levelled the scores ten minutes after the break, Warren Gladdy popped up with winner with just over 15 minutes remaining. Nippy front runner Lee Armitt scored four times for **Oxhey Jets** as they recorded an excellent 5-2 win away at **Leverstock Green**, who only made the score somewhat respectable thanks to two goals coming in the first and third minutes of added on time from Sean Biswell and Matt Wardle. Lewis Cook notched the Jets other goal. **Haringey Borough** extended their unbeaten run to 4 games and completed their first "double" of the season with a hard earned 3-1 win at **Hertford Town**. Borough was three goals to the good at half time, thanks to Adam Scorcher, Mason Aberaki and Lloyd Opara. Kevin Cooper pulled a goal back for Hertford midway through the second period, but although Borough keeper Brian Sealy was the busier of the two glovesmen, Borough held on to move further away from the bottom two. Second from bottom **Welwyn Garden City** are beginning to look very vulnerable as they were thrashed 12-0 at home by **Dunstable Town**. Dan O'Connor and Russell Preston both scored hat-tricks, with other goals coming from Nick Jackson (2), Neal Perrin, Douglas Kisuule, Jake Bewley and Alex McCarthy in the one-sided encounter.

#### **DIVISION ONE**

With leaders Holmer Green sidelined yet again due to the weather, **New Bradwell St. Peter** took the opportunity to move level on points at the top as they won 3-1 at home against **Harpenden Town**. The visitors took the lead in the first half through Mark Hitchcock, but three goals in the last 20 minutes from Martin Wells, Gary Flynn and Lea Coulter gave Bradwell the victory. However, as well as a better goal difference, Holmer do have 5 games in hand on New Bradwell, and once back in action would hope to extend the points gap. **London Colney** suffered a rare home reverse as they went down 3-1 to **Sun Postal Sports**, who took a very early lead through Chris McIntyre, but had to wait until the last couple of minutes before Fabien Forde and Darren Turner scored twice to record the important win. Russell Gallagher equalised for Colney early in the second half. **Amersham Town**'s recent revival came to an abrupt end as they went down 6-1 at home to **Cockfosters**. The visitors were always in the driving seat as Dean Barker after 10 minutes and Jon Curtis after 28 put the Reds firmly in control. Toby Francis

grabbed one back for Amersham before Dave Pigden scored just before the break to put Cockfosters 3-1 in front. Shortly after the restart Demetri Stratis extended the lead and two more goals in added time from Pigden & Barker sealed the win. Two late goals in the last 5 minutes from Gavin Hansell and Stuart Reynolds ensured that **Ampthill Town** did not come a cropper at home to **Tokyngton Manor**, but **Hoddesdon Town** were rather surprisingly held 2-2 at home to **Cranfield United**, who have been having a rather torrid time of late. The return of Ryan Redford to the fold failed to spark the Lilywhites and after a fairly dour first half, all the goals came in the second period. Ellis Spence put Cranfield in front on 54 minutes, only for Tony Neilson to level the scores shortly after, and when Colin Metivier scored again for the home side, it looked game over. However a goal in the second minute of added on time from Ben Brill gave Cranfield a very useful point, whilst at the same time putting a dent in Hoddesdon's promotion hopes. The Ostlers Lane ground survived two pitch inspections to allow **Stony Stratford Town** to entertain **Bedford**. Stony recovered somewhat from their large mid week defeat to gain a creditable draw at 2-2. Stony settled the quicker on a very heavy pitch and they should have gone ahead on 8 minutes, but their forward put the ball over the Bedford bar when it looked easier to score. A couple of near miss shots on goal by Stony led to their opening on 30 minutes when the Bedford keeper could only half save the shot and Barry Bellhouse followed up to lash the ball home from almost on the goal line. Stony grabbed their second goal following a poor throw out by the Bedford keeper and from the cross, Shaun Carr ran through to score on 41 minutes. Apart from a couple of goalmouth scrambles in the Stony box, Bedford did not really muster a first half chance. The second half was a transformation for Bedford as they poured forward to gain a penalty on 52 minutes. However, the chance was wasted when the ball was blasted high and wide of the goal. But a Bedford goal was not long in coming as Ian Thorne ran 35 yards with the ball to shoot past the home keeper to score on 56 minutes. The equalising goal came on 84 minutes when Chas Bailey steered the ball into the Stony net from a right wing cross. It was all Bedford now, but they missed a golden opportunity to win the match when their player's shot somehow hit a post when he was in front of goal and only six yards out. A final Bedford effort was well saved when the home keeper just managed to tip the ball over his own bar. Thus Stony, like a boxer on the ropes waiting for the final bell, hung on for the draw. All in all an entertaining match, despite the pitch conditions, and although both teams could have won the match, a draw seemed a fair result in the end.

### DIVISION TWO

Leaders **Berkhamsted** went four points clear at the top as they won 4-0 at home against **Bucks Student Union**. On the scoresheet were Lawrence Bunker with two, James Armstrong and Adam Mead. However second place **Aston Clinton** do have two games in hand. **Padbury United** would have moved up to second, but

after going into a second minute lead, they were forced to settle for a point in their 3-3 draw at home to **Risborough Rangers**. Paul Lyon, Sean Sowetan and Dominic Lawless gave the home side the lead three times, but two goals from Martin Griggs and one from Ashley Beswick pulled them back. Another 3-3 draw took place at **Caddington** where the hosts shared six goals with **Kent Athletic**, who are making a determined effort to escape the wooden spoon, and would have taken all three points but for a late equaliser from Mark Medlin. There were also six goals scored at **Old Bradwell United**, but unfortunately for the hosts, visitors **Tring Corinthians** were responsible for five of them. Lee Herring came up trumps with three of them, and Ross Gregory and Paul Hawkins contributed one each. **Pitstone & Ivinghoe** moved up into 5<sup>th</sup> spot following their 4-1 win over **Mursley United**. Jack Elliott gave the villagers an early lead that was quickly nullified by Ed Mills, but second half goals from Sean Synott, Carl Harrison and Tom Elliott completed the victory.

### DIVISION TWO CUP –SEMI FINAL

**Aston Clinton** booked their place in the Final with a 6-2 win away at **MK Wanderers**. Matty Tallyn and Peter Weirich scored a couple apiece and Steve Powell and Aaron Usmani got the other two. Two first half goals from Sam Parrish (penalty) and Mathew Old gave the home side hope, but the visitors scored three times in the second period to seal the result.

### BEDS SENIOR TROPHY - SEMI FINAL

Richard Harker put **AFC Dunstable** in front after 37 minutes against Division One rivals **Crawley Green**, but the home side fought back in the second half, and three goals in the last 26 minutes, from Jermaine Hall, Peter O'Donnell and Tom Freeman, ensured Crawley go through to the Final, where they will meet UCL side Potton.

### MIDWEEK TUESDAY 23<sup>Rd</sup> and WEDNESDAY 24<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY

What a wash out – just one game played out of the scheduled 19 over the two evenings, and that resulted in a 4-2 defeat for **Ampthill Town** away at **Banbury United** in the Buckingham Charity Cup.

**Are Phil and Eric worried? – No, of course they're not.**

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