

## MOLTEN SPARTAN SOUTH MIDLANDS FOOTBALL LEAGUE NEWSLETTER No.15

By **Bill Scholes**

SATURDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2007

*There were 5 hat tricks scored this week, but pride of place undoubtedly goes to the touse-headed Sean Sonner of Harefield United, who scored all 5 of his clubs goals in their 5-1 win in the FA Vase away to Chalfont St. Peter. Three players scored 4 goals – Bill White and Ryan Wiffin for Winslow United in their 9-2 win over AFC Barnston, and Dave Holloway for Stony Stratford in their 5-1 win over Cranfield United. Daniel Edwards scored a normal hat trick for Caddington in their 7-0 win at Padbury United.*

*Congratulations also to Markyate, who finally broke their duck and gained their first point of the season in a 0-0 draw with Risborough Rangers.*

*Three clubs recorded attendances in excess of 100 - Chalfont St. Peter topping the list with 110, closely followed by Hanwell Town (102) and Hertford Town (101).*

### MOLTEN TEAM OF THE MONTH – OCTOBER

Congratulations to Hoddesdon Town who were declared Team of the Month for October. They were presented with a Molten Golden Ball on Saturday by the League president Brian Smith and Andy Passman from Molten Sports.

### FA VASE SECOND ROUND

At the start of the day there were 9 SSMFL clubs involved in the Vase, but by 5.30pm the numbers had been whittled down to just three. With an all-SSMFL pairing in two ties, we knew we would definitely have two sides in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Round, but only one out of the remaining 5 ties emerged victorious. The biggest winner of the day was **Harefield United** who easily won their away tie at near neighbours **Chalfont St. Peter** by 5-1. The match was a personal triumph for Harefield's front-runner Sean Sonner, who scored all of his team's five goals. He was helped in no small way by some woeful defensive errors, but the ball still has to be put in the back of the net, and this he did with some aplomb. Watching Chalfont was a bit like watching Kate Garraway in Strictly Come Dancing – plankish and lacking any attack! The game was really over as a contest in the first 16 minutes – the time it took for Sonner to score his hat trick – and he added his fourth on 41 minutes. Just before the break, Terrell Lewis gave Chalfont a glimmer of hope when he out-jumped the Hares keeper to pull one back, but although the Saints threatened briefly at the start of the second half, stout defending by Harefield kept them out. All that remained was time for Chalfont's keeper to make a real horlicks of an attempted clearance, allowing Sonner a gaping open goal for his fifth. Sonners gave a master class in finishing, running off the ball and closing defenders down, and he departed the pitch just before the end to a well-deserved standing ovation from the crowd. The other all SSMFL tie saw **Brimmsdown Rovers** make full use of home advantage as they triumphed over **Tring Athletic** by 3-1. This was the third occasion that the two teams had met this season, and all with the same result. Player manager Mervyn Abraham gave Rovers the lead after 27 minutes, but Steve Hutchins brought Athletic back on level terms with a brilliant solo goal just before the break. Abraham put Rovers back in front on 65 minutes, but even though Tring went down to 9 men in the last 15 minutes or so, due to a late challenge on Paul Aldridge and a hamstring problem for Andy Humphries, Rovers had to wait nervously until the 5<sup>th</sup> minute of stoppage time before Scott Atkinson made the game safe. Plaudits must also go to the third side through to the next round - **Amphill Town**, who achieved a tremendous 3-0 victory at home to Essex Senior League side **Burnham Ramblers**. Stuart Reynolds' excellent shot on 22 minutes gave Amphill a one nil lead at half time. After the break Reynolds beat two defenders to chip the ball into the top corner of the net in the 70th minute for the second goal before substitute Tony Hill sealed the historic win five minutes from time. There was heartbreak for **Hanwell Town** at home to UCL club **Cogenhoe United** when, after being thwarted time and time

again by brilliant keeping from United's glovesman Darren Watts, Rob Foster broke away just before the end to grab the only goal of the game. More heartbreak at **Newmarket Town**, where visitors **Biggleswade United** came within a minute of bringing the Jockeys back to Second Meadow for a replay. Utd dominated much of the game and, had they taken a few more of their first half chances the game may have been settled without the need for extra time. The winner came from John Olide with a minute of extra time remaining. **Cockfosters** bowed out of the Vase at **Romford** following a low-key game in which there could be few complaints. A disastrous first half performance had Cockfosters three down at the break and that was basically game, set and match, although Dan O'Connor grabbed one back before the end it was a sad way in which to end manager David Craig's reign in charge at the Club. Changes both on and off the field were perhaps not the best build-up for **Royston Town's** big game against **Ipswich Wanderers**, and they subsequently succumbed to two goals in a five-minute spell halfway through the second half.

### FA VASE THIRD ROUND DRAW – To be played Sat 8<sup>th</sup> December

**Amphill Town** v Concorde Rangers, Ipswich Wanderers v **Harefield United** and Crowborough Athletic v **Brimmsdown Rovers**

We would like to wish all three of our sides the very best of luck in the next round.

### PREMIER DIVISION ROUND UP

Leaders **Biggleswade Town** missed out on the opportunity to gain further ground on their rivals when they returned empty handed from their trip **St. Margaretsbury**. The recently revitalised home side were clearly not in awe of the leaders and took a first half lead through Tony Neilson. Two further second half goals from Louis Rose and Alfie Koroma sealed the 3-0 victory. **Hertford Town** moved up into third place as they defeated **Aylesbury Vale** 3-0 at home. Matt McArdle opened the scoring with a powerful strike which took a wicked deflection, giving the Vale keeper no chance and Ryan Redford, playing his 100<sup>th</sup> match for the Blues, doubled the score 10 minutes from the break with a deft header at the far post. Redford scored his second of the match half way through the second half, latching on to a long ball from Glen Draper to slide past the keeper. Another side swiftly climbing the table are **Broxbourne Borough**, who overcame a difficult trip to promotion hopefuls **Beaconsfield SYCOB** to return with a hard earned 1-0 victory. Goalscoring hero was Gasmin Dauti in the 63<sup>rd</sup> minute. **Leverstock Green's** form has been up and down this season, but they turned in their second good performance in a row as they earned an impressive 3-0 league win at **Oxhey Jets**. For the first time this season all of the Greens "big three" strikers found the net in the same game. Allan Arthur after 11 minutes, James Armstrong after 77 minutes and Mickey Swaysland just made it in the 4<sup>th</sup> minute of stoppage time. Another side whose form is a bit up and down are **Langford**, but on Saturday they were definitely up as they hammered **Holmer Green** 6-1. Three goals inside the first 30 minutes all but sealed this victory for a dominant Langford side as Wes Byrne, Gary Walker and Dave Brown all hit the target before the half time Jaffas. Simon Williams gave Holmer a glimmer of hope 10 minutes after the break, but another three-goal burst from Luke Nichol, Mark Wright and Byrne again completed the emphatic victory. The two other bottom four sides playing both lost – **London Colney** going down away at **Welwyn Garden City** to a single Michael Bakare goal just before half time, whilst **Ruislip Manor** could not make home advantage count as they lost 3-0 to **Kingsbury London Tigers**, the visitor's goals were scored by Beyene, Lansiquot and Amtanabitus.

### DIVISION ONE ROUND UP

**Hoddesdon Town** were knocked off top spot as they suffered the not unusual "Kiss of Death" syndrome following their Team of the Month award, and surprisingly went down 1-0 at home to lowly **Harpenden Town**. The visitors winning goal was scored in the 63<sup>rd</sup> minute by Richard Taaffe (apparently the *correct* spelling of his surname, following several attempts at it by the PressSec). New leaders are **Kentish Town** who, with two wins in the last week moved up from fourth place. Kentish enjoyed a 6-0 romp away at New **Bradwell St. Peter**, with two goals each from Jonathon

Donoghue and Thomas Looney and singles from Paul Roberts and Mark Doyle. **Haringey Borough** moved up into second place with a 3-2 home win over previous occupants **Bedford** and in so doing dropping Bedford back to fourth. It was nip and tuck all the way – Darak Jozwiak's 7<sup>th</sup> minute penalty giving Bedford the lead, only for Chima Odiji to equalise on the half hour mark. Boro took the lead in the second half through Andrew Stokes, only for Bedford to bounce back with a Mark Reed goal, but Boro's Jamaal Duncan snatched all three points with the all important winner with just three minutes remaining on the clock. **Stony Stratford Town** moved up a couple of places with a comprehensive 5-1 win over **Cranfield United**, which presumably didn't please ex-Stony manager Craig Connell. Dave Holloway scored a hat trick before half time and then added his fourth just after the break. Daren Dykes got the home side's other goal, whilst Cranfield's sole reply came from Samuel Cruerio. **Arlesey Athletic** led **Bedford Town Reserves** for most of the game after a goal by Adam Furness, but an unfortunate own goal with just three minutes left gave the home side a 1-1 draw. A keenly fought match at Stratford Fields saw **Buckingham Athletic** and a youthful **Sun Postal Sports** side draw 1-1. Whilst the home side enjoyed the balance of the first half play, it was Sun who opened the scoring on 37 minutes when John Thornley rose unchallenged to head a right wing cross into the net. The second half was little better for Buckingham who huffed and puffed but never looked like they were going to score. Sun held out for 85 minutes until David O'Dell hit a superb strike from 25 yards into the top left hand corner of the Sun net. Buckingham almost immediately gave Sun another goal but the home keeper brilliantly saved a deflected free kick to keep the game even. It was nice to see two teams wanting to play football with referee Peter Saggars so well in control that he did not issue a single caution all afternoon.

#### DIVISION TWO ROUND UP

With leaders Kings Langley without a game, **AFC Dunstable** had the chance to reduce the gap on the leaders, but they failed to do so, losing 3-0 away at **Crawley Green**. Peter O'Donnell with two, and Danny Watson were Crawley's goalscorers, and this win propels Crawley up into second place, above their visitors who drop down to third. Kent Athletic were without a league game and drop back to fourth, but rather surprisingly were unable to raise a team for their second round tie in the Ana gram Records Trophy against Sheerwater. **Caddington** eased to a 7-0 win away to second from bottom **Padbury United**, helped by a Daniel Edwards hat trick. Grant Carney got a brace and Richard Walsh and Adrian Fontenelle contributed the other two. **Mursley United** came away from **Totternhoe** with a 5-2 win, thanks to goals from Martin Shaw (2) and Nigel Price, Will Smith and Scott Williams. Tom Leigh notched both of Totternhoe's goals. **The 61FC** triumphed 2-0 over **Old Bradwell United**, with two late goals coming from Stephen Gravestock and Shayne Arnett. Bottom club **Markyate** gained their first point of the season, holding **Risborough Rangers** to a 0-0 draw at home.

#### ANAGRAM RECORDS TROPHY SECOND ROUND

There was success for three of our clubs in the above Trophy. **Amersham Town** beat Wormley Rovers 2-0, **Pitstone & Ivinghoe** beat Sandridge Rovers 4-3, and **Winslow United** crushed AFC Barnston 9-2.

#### FANCY A JOB?

##### **Brimsdown Rovers Football Club are looking for a new Chairman**

Current Chairman Gary Brooker has stepped down from the position to concentrate on the position of Sports & Social Club Chairman and feel there could be conflict with him holding the 2 positions. With this in mind the Football Club Committee would be interested to hear from anyone interested in joining Brimsdown Rovers Football Club and becoming the New Chairman. If you have experience holding a similar position or feel this may be something you would be interested in, they would love to hear from you. Brimsdown is a fast moving club, having risen from the Spartan South Midlands League Division One as League and Cup winners and are this season challenging for top spot in the

Premier Division. They are still in the FA Vase and run teams from 7 to 18 years of age. If you feel you would like to join the Revolution at Goldsdown Road, please Contact Rob on 0788 060 3108

#### LOOKING FOR A JOB

I have been the Youth & Reserve Team Manager at Potters Bar Town FC for 4 Years & held that position at Romford FC for 3 years prior to that. However, having seen countless young players progress through to both the 1st team at Potters Bar & clubs in the Ryman & Spartan SML leagues, I now wish to manage a 1st team in leagues of such standing. Are there any clubs out there looking for someone like myself to inject both the training schemes & methods that have been successful at Potters Bar & want to progress through to the Ryman League? I can also bring a back-up team & quality players with me if that should be needed. I have the full support of the Chairman at Potters Bar to seek a new position.

If interested, please contact **Mike Locke** on either [Mikehbifa@aol.com](mailto:Mikehbifa@aol.com) or 07921 766451

#### MANAGERIAL CHANGES

Following the resignation of previous Manager Phil Snowden, Paul Attfield has been appointed as the new Royston Town manager. The former Buntingford Town boss has taken charge alongside his former assistant and ex-Crows player-manager Tony Galvin. Attfield and Galvin are no strangers to the Garden Walk, with Attfield spending six years at the club as youth team and reserve team manager, while Galvin was Royston manager for two seasons in the mid-90s. Off-field differences prompted Snowden to quit, and with him went club captain Stuart Snowden, assistant manager Rob Henry, and general secretary Elaine Phillips. Graham Phillips, who has been chairman for eight years, has also resigned from his position.

Cockfosters FC issued the following statement on their website at the weekend. "David Craig has resigned as manager of Cockfosters FC. Dave's decision to step down has come purely from the personal pressures of family life and it's with great regret we have to acknowledge and respect his decision. The Club is truly grateful to Dave for the major contribution he has made on the Club's behalf whilst in charge. We wish him and his family all the best in the knowledge that Cockfosters has always played a major part in his footballing career. Thanks Dave...."

#### RIP "CHINA"

Chalfont St Peter AFC are very sad to hear of the death of their oldest supporter, Gerald Geoffrey Elderfield, known to all as "China," who sadly passed away at 4.00pm on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> November, having supported the club for 60 years! It was appropriate that, at the time, Chalfont were putting in their best performance of the season in winning 3-0 at Kingsbury London Tigers with some truly excellent football. A minute's silence was held before the kick off in the Ruislip Manor match last Saturday and his son was in attendance at the game. China will certainly be missed by all of us and we extend our sincere condolences to his family and friends, of which there were many.

#### TITTLE-TATTLE

A couple of weeks ago, a fourth official turned up at the Beaconsfield SYCOB v Biggleswade Town game. Apparently he was supposed to be at Aylesbury Vale on that day, but *was* due at Beaconsfield two weeks later. I suppose that comes of relying on second-hand Scottish calendars!

**Many thanks to our contributors - please keep all news /views / items of interest coming to [billscholes@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:billscholes@hotmail.co.uk)**

**Bill Scholes**