

MOLTEN SPARTAN SOUTH MIDLANDS FOOTBALL LEAGUE

NEWSLETTER No. 19

By Bill Scholes

Saturday 15th December 2007

There were 3 hat tricks this week, but none in the Premier Division. In Division One, Ronardson Da Silva scored three for Haringey Boro, whilst in Division Two James Potter rattled in 5 for Crawley Green and Gary Simpson got just the normal three for Totternhoe.

FA VASE – THIRD ROUND PROPER

Brimdsdown Rovers returned to Sussex for the second week running, but suffered heartache as **Crowborough Athletic** won the delayed tie 2-1 after extra time. The home side got off to a flyer after just 9 minutes as John Sinclair gave them the lead with a powerful header and it was a lead they held until the 54th minute when Ashley Taylor – Forbes brought Brimdsdown level. With no further scoring in the 90 minutes, the game went to extra time, but with just two minutes remaining, Andy Ducille tapped home the winner.

FA VASE –FOURTH ROUND DRAW

The above result leaves **Harefield United** as the sole representative of the SSMFL left in in the 4th Round Draw and they have been drawn away to **Greenwich Borough**, who are currently sitting around half way in the Kent Senior league.

PREMIER DIVISION ROUND UP

As has been said before, (many times, many ways- sorry, its getting near Xmas!) this is turning out to be one of the closest title challenges for some years, as not only are the top teams beating each other, but they are also dropping points to sides in the bottom half of the table. This week it was the turn of **Biggleswade Town**, who lost 2-1 away to **Kingsbury London Tigers**, and **Hertford Town**, who lost 1-0 away at **Ruislip Manor**. It seems a shame that only 15 spectators were there for the visit of the league leaders, but the Waders were stunned with by two-goal blast from Kingsbury's Denilson Vicente just after half time, and although Jamie Steele pulled one back with 13 minutes left they could not come up with the equaliser. The real shock result of the day came at Grosvenor Vale, where Ruislip Manor's 1-0 win over visitors Hertford Town lifted them out of the bottom two. It was a hard fought win, as they were under the cosh for long periods, but to restrict the deadly duo of Cooper and Redford to a barren afternoon is no mean feat, and to pinch a goal in the 5th minute of added on time was the icing on the cake and great news for a club that has had their fair share of upheavals, both on and off the pitch. With only one point from their last two games, Hertford have dropped back to 6th place, but moving smoothly up into second place with their second win in 5 days are **Chalfont St. Peter**, who negotiated a tricky hurdle at **Langford** and came away with a 3-0 victory. Bradley Bubb gave the Saints a 26th minute lead, but they had to wait until the last 8 minutes of the game before Adam Louth, with a penalty, and Ben Stack calmed the nerves. **Beaconsfield SYCOB**, having beaten Brimdsdown Rovers on their own patch two weeks ago, are full of confidence, and they beat an improving **St. Margaretsbury** 2-1 at home. Stuart Swift gave the Rams a first half lead, but the Bury must have thought they had earned a draw with Louis Rose's 84th minute equaliser, but back came SYCOB and Terry Gibbs grabbed the winning goal with just two minutes left. There was a cracking game at **Broxbourne Borough**, where visitors **Harefield United** overcame a spirited challenge from the home side to run out 4-3 winners. A Sean Sonner penalty right on the stroke of half time gave the Hares a 2-1 lead and Paul Haines made it 3-1 after 65 minutes. Boro then produced a spirited comeback to level the game at 3-3, with goals from Bradley Drisdale and Rob Kemble, but with three minutes remaining Sonner got his second to seal the win. **Biggleswade United** are not having the beat of seasons, but they came away from **Cockfosters** with a 4-2 win. Jake Goodship opened the scoring for United after 12 minutes, but Dan O'Connor got the home side back on terms just before the Jaffa break. Simon Catmur and Craig

Rydehead put Utd further ahead in the second half and, although O'Connor gave Cockfosters hope with his second, Dan Jaskin scored Utd's fourth with 6 minutes left. **London Colney** remain rooted to the bottom of the table, following their 3-1 defeat at **Oxhey Jets**, in spite of taking an 11th minute lead through Chris Wickens, but second half goals from Paul Danslow, Marc Ayres and Adam Lowton saw the Jets safely home. **Holmer Green** drop back into the bottom two following their 2-1 defeat at **Colney Heath**. Greg Deacon gave the home side a 42nd minute lead from the penalty spot, only to see that wiped out two minutes later by an Own Goal. The Greens held out until the 79th minute when Phil Jackman popped up with the winner. **Tring Athletic** recovered from their heavy defeat at Langford last week to beat **Welwyn Garden City** 2-1 with two first half goals from Mark Burfoot and Steve Hutchins. Dan Griggs replied for the Citizens. A melee in the 26th minute of the game between **Leverstock Green** and **Aylesbury Vale** resulted in 4 yellow cards being shown, which was four more than the number of goals in the game.

TUESDAY 18th DECEMBER

Chalfont St. Peter propelled themselves to within a point of leaders Biggleswade Town with a comprehensive 4-0 defeat of **Hanwell Town**, who themselves harbour hopes of promotion. The Saints went into the half time break two goals up, thanks to two early strikes from Bradley Bubb and Maradona Mason, and then wrapped the game up with goals from John Carroll and Terrell Lewis. **Harefield United** moved up a place to fourth, with their 2-0 win away at **Tring Athletic**, both goals coming in the second half from Michalás Livesay and a Ben Hammond penalty. It's certainly getting tighter at the top.

DIVISION ONE ROUND UP

The top two sides both won, extending their lead to four points over the third placed side. **Haringey Borough** had a very convincing 5-1 win at home to **Brache Sparta**, with a hat trick from Ronardson Da Silva and singles from Andrew Stoates and Melvin Thompson, whilst Brache's sole reply came from Darren Howard. **Kentish Town** had the slightly easier task, at home to bottom club **Sun Postal Sports**, and the game went with form, Town winning 3-1. Ali Meerza's goal for the home side was the sole strike of the first half, and Sun equalised after 57 minutes through Darren Lancaster, but Lee Scott and Jonathon Donoghue left it late before wrapping up all three points. **Sport London e Benfica** remain in third place, despite losing 2-1 to **Royston Town**, but this game produced an excellent spectacle for the neutrals to watch. Sport London are an excellent footballing side, who tried to play football on the ground throughout the game, despite trying to play catch-up for 89 minutes. It was a joy to watch. Royston are an almost unrecognizable side from that which sat at the bottom of the division for the first couple of months, and if anyone wants a dark horse for promotion, you heard it here first! Royston took advantage of some very slack defending right from the start, and David Cain put them one up in the first minute. The big No9 could easily have had a hat trick in the first 5 minutes, but somehow the Benfica goal escaped. Royston's new signing from Mildenhall, Craig Hammond, buoyed by his midweek debut hat trick, increased the lead on 27 minutes and it did begin to look game over, but Benfica struck back just before half time when Helder Da Silva made a mazy run right through the centre of the Crows defence to slot past a startled keeper. There were no further goals in the second half, but the standard of football was enough to offset the creeping cold conditions. Another plus was the excellent behaviour of both benches - not a peep (really). **Amptill Town** responded to their midweek defeat at Royston by winning 4-0 at home to **Arlesley Athletic** – Matty Quinn opened the account in the first half, and this was followed by second half goals from Christian Lester, Martin Wells, and a Stuart Reynolds penalty. **Hoddesdon Town** lost ground in the promotion chase as they went down 3-0 away to **New Bradwell St. Peter**. The battle of the Bedfords was won by **Town Reserves**, who made the 100 yard journey to **Bedford FC** and returned with a 2-1 win. Both teams turned out very young sides, which bodes well for the future. All the goals came in the second half – John Guiney getting both for Town Reserves before Jason Layne's consolation goal in the last minute. **Cheshunt Reserves**, whose manager Justin Moseley has stepped up to take charge of the first team, came back empty handed

from **Stony Stratford Town**, where they lost 3-1. Town's goals came from Adam Castagnetti, Darren Dykes and Ben Hill, with Cheshunt's reply coming from Glen Geddes. The only other game in the division saw 8 spectators at **Harpenden Town** treated to a goalless draw with **Buckingham Athletic**.

TUESDAY 18th DECEMBER

The winning streak continued for **Royston Town** in their mid week game away to **Stony Stratford Town** and they returned with all three points and a 3-2 win over more promotion hopefuls. That man Craig Hammond came up with another brace, and that together with a Luke Robins goal gave the Crows a three nil lead at half time. Stony hit back in the second half with two goals from Darren Dykes but just couldn't find the equalizer.

ANAGRAM RECORDS TROPHY – THIRD ROUND

Amersham Town's opponents were playing in a County Cup tie, which left just two of our sides playing. **Winslow United** went down 3-1 at home to **Manford Way**, but **Pitstone & Ivinghoe** moved comfortably into the fourth round with a 3-0 win at home to **Buntingford Town**. A Michael Ryan penalty separated two strikes from Laurence Bunker.

CHALLENGE TROPHY – THIRD ROUND

The 61FC emerged victorious from an epic struggle with close neighbours **Kent Athletic** to earn a place in the Fourth Round and a home tie with Holmer Green. Mishak Cole gave Kent an early lead that they held just after the break, when Ricky Clark equalised. Nathan Miller put Kent back on top, but only for a minute as Aaron Lewis squared the tie up. So it remained until 5 minutes from the end of extra time, when Lewis pounced for his second of the game to make the final score 3-2.

DIVISION TWO

Leaders **Kings Langley** still maintain their 8 point lead over second placed Crawley Green, thanks to a 3-2 away win at **Risborough Rangers**. Richard Harvey opened the scoring for the leaders, only for Robbie Morgan to equalise just after half time. Craig Preston and Gary Clarke increased the lead, but once again Morgan pulled one back to leave Langley with a nervous last 18 minutes. **Crawley Green** had no problem disposing of **Padbury United** 7-0, thanks to 5 goals from James Potter. Tom Freeman and Mark Bunker weighed in with one each. Bottom club **Markyate** also lost heavily, going down 6-1 at home to **Totternhoe**, for whom Gary Simpson scored a hat trick. **Caddington** hoisted themselves up to the fringes of the promotion battle with a 3-1 home win over rivals **AFC Dunstable**. Caddington roared into a 3-0 lead through Adrian Fontenelle, Gary Catlin and Bernie Christie, before Gary Capehorn replied for the visiting team.

DIVISION TWO CUP –SECOND ROUND

In the Divisional Cup, both **Tring Corinthians** and **Mursley United** eased their way into the Semi – Finals. Tring beat **Old Bradwell United** 4-1, whilst Mursley overcame **Aston Clinton** 3-1. Tring will play Mursley in one semi –final, whilst the other will be between Kent Athletic and Kings Langley.

MOLTEN FOOTBALLS SPECIAL XMAS OFFER

Balls, Balls, and even more Balls. Those lovely people at Molten Sports have a special Xmas Offer on Match Balls running throughout December. Buy 3 FVA 5000A Vantaggio Match Balls, and get a fourth absolutely FREE. To take advantage of this excellent money saving offer, get in touch with Andy Passman at Molten Sports – 01525 404274 - NOW

Many thanks to our contributors - please keep all news /views / items of interest coming to billscholes@hotmail.co.uk
Bill Scholes