

MOLTEN SPARTAN SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE

NEWSLETTER No.25

By Bill Scholes

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Three hat tricks this week – one in each of the divisions In Division One, Lee Scott scored a second half hat trick for Kentish Town, but these were on top of the two goals he scored in the first half, making a total of five. Michael Bakare notched three for Welwyn Garden City, whilst Robbie Morgan brought a bit of light to Risborough Rangers' sad month with his three goals.

PREMIER DIVISION ROUND UP

League leaders Biggleswade Town were without a game due to Ruislip Manor's sabbatical, leaving the door open for **Chalfont St. Peter** to return to the top of the stairs following their 3-1 win away at **Holmer Green**. The locals at Watchet Lane know that when the wind doth blow it doth really blow, and cold as well – even the Toon Army would have been hard pressed not to put a woolly on! And the fairly dour but evenly matched first half did little to warm the spirits. No goals in the first half, and very difficult to tell who was nearly top and who was nearly bottom. Normal service appeared to have been resumed early in the second half when a Chalfont corner was not cut out, leaving Joshua Francois to fire home. However, Holmer heads didn't drop, and 8 minutes later Sammy Grace easily found space in the Chalfont defence and finished with aplomb to level the scores. As the game went on, Chalfont looked the more likely to score, and they duly did – skipper John Carroll putting them ahead with a drive from just inside the penalty, and Ryan Welsh adding a third just before the end. In second place, and only separated from the leaders by goal difference, are **Beaconsfield SYCOB** who have moved steadily up the table in recent weeks and their 4-1 home win over **Hanwell Town** was their 10th unbeaten League game on the trot (12 in all competitions). The Rams, with Jamie Jarvis in his first season as a Manager, have been putting together a squad capable of challenging for promotion back up to the Southern league, and they are also still heavily involved in three Cup competitions. Michael Currie put the Rams into a 38th minute lead, before Blake Goodman equalised right on the stroke of half time. The second half belonged to Beaconsfield and a penalty from Stuart Swift and two goals from recent signing Mickey Swaysland saw them safely home. **Brimsdown Rovers** kept themselves right in touch with the leaders with a 2-0 victory over **Hertford Town**, whose own challenge seems to have slipped in the last few weeks. Scorers for the Rovers, both in the first half, were Reece Prestedge, who fired home through a sea of players in the 17th minute and Scott Atkinson, who found himself alone in front of an empty net after 35 minutes. With two wins in a week, **Aylesbury Vale** have moved themselves up from 12th to 6th spot and their latest victory was a 2-0 away win at **London Colney** – both goals coming in the first half from Luke Melisi and Stuart Corbould. Another side on a long unbeaten run in the League (11 games) are **Leverstock Green**, who made it 8 wins out of 11 with a 4-0 home win over **Colney Heath**. Two first half goals from Allan Arthur and James Armstrong put the Green in the driving seat, and they rounded off a good performance with two late goals from Anthony Paige and Frankie Jowle. On paper, the game between **Welwyn Garden City** and **Oxhey Jets** looked to be a close one - 14th and 15th respectively in the table, but the Citizens ran out comfortable 5-0 winners, thanks to three goals from Michael Bakare, and singles from Ben Cain and Alex Kinsey. **Cockfosters'** long overdue wait for their first home league win of the season was finally delivered as **Tring Athletic** were beaten 3-1 at Chalk Lane. Michael Casey put Cockfosters in front before Andy Humphreys levelled for Tring by half-time. Second half strikes from Dan O'Connor and Steve Weldon sealed the win which could well have been more comfortable. **Harefield United's** push for promotion slipped slightly as they were beaten 2-1 at home to **Langford**. Despite taking the lead through Craig Totton after 23 minutes, Langford scored twice in a four minute spell just after the half hour mark, courtesy of Robert Groves and Joe Delaselle, to maintain their place in the top ten. There was a seven goal thriller at **Broxbourne Borough**, where the home side just edged home 4-3 against **Biggleswade United** – three goals coming in the last 7 minutes. Jason Darville gave the visitors the lead after 50 minutes,

only for Lee Teagle, Daryl Mitchell and Danny Ward to put Boro in the driving seat with just 17 minutes left. Jake Goodship then reduced the deficit to one, only for Anthony Burke to increase it again with just two minutes left. Undaunted, Utd then scored again with Darville's second of the game, but time then ran out. The game between **St. Margaretsbury** and **Kingsbury London Tigers** ended in a 1-1 draw.

DIVISION ONE ROUND UP

Kentish Town are the new leaders following their comprehensive 6-0 win away at **Brache Sparta**. The crowd of 6 were almost treated to a goal apiece from the one man demolition display from Lee Scott, who scored the first five goals before Mark Doyle got in on the act just before the end. This goal fest was vital to Kentish Town as, with three clubs now on 40 points, it gives them a two goal edge over **Stony Stratford Town**, who only managed a 3-0 win at home to **Amptill Town**. Stony's scorers were Shaun Carr, Gary Hutchinson and Darren Dykes. Hoddesdon Town were involved in cup action and remain on 40 points, but they do have two games in hand on the new leaders. **Haringey Borough** eschewed the chance to join the top three as they went down 3-1 away to second from bottom **Cranfield United** in brilliant sunshine at Crawley Road. Indeed, the football matched the weather in a really entertaining game. Haringey dominated the first half and only they will know why the half finished goalless as the ball somehow stayed out of the Cranfield net. However, Cranfield were a different side in the second half and it came as no surprise when new signing Tony Hill raced through to volley the ball over the keeper and into the net on 50 minutes. This stung Haringey into a reaction and they pegged back Cranfield for long periods. The equalising goal finally came on 76 minutes when Bryan Hardy rose unchallenged to head home a corner kick. The watching home fans awaited the coup de grace from Borough but it never came. Cranfield exploited defensive errors by the visitors when a harmless shot was diverted by a defender into his own goal on 80 minutes and put the game beyond Borough when another defensive slip allowed Hill to run through to score on 85 minutes. All in all an excellent game to watch with the surprise being the third placed team in the division lost to the second bottom club - that's football I suppose! The biggest gate of the day in all divisions was at Garden Walk where 129 spectators watched resurgent **Royston Town** battle out a 0-0 draw with visitors **New Bradwell St. Peter**. **Amersham Town** gained their third win on the bounce and a move away from the drop zone as they beat visitors **Buckingham Athletic** 2-0 with a goal in each half from Jude Eboji and Reon Thomas. **Sun Postal Sports** remain in bottom spot following a narrow 2-1 loss at **Arlesey Athletic**, Alan Lancaster gave Sun Postal hope when they took the lead just after half time, but two goals from Wayne Blows and Adam Furness sealed Athletic's win. Another club to take a first half lead were **Bedford Town Reserves**, through Paul Draycott, but home side **Sport London e Benfica** equalised with an Albert De Matos goal ten minutes into the second half.

DIVISION TWO ROUND UP

With leaders Kings Langley involved in Cup action, **AFC Dunstable** took the opportunity to cut the gap at the top to six points as they romped to a convincing 6-2 win at home to **Tring Corinthians**. Two goals up in the first six minutes through Craig Butler and James McCarthy, John Cooper added a third just before half time, and McCarthy's second, 18 minutes into the second half, made the game safe. Four late goals, two from each side, rounded off the scoring. **The 61 FC** remain well placed in fourth after their 4-2 away win against **Mursley United** and have four games in hand on Dunstable. Two own goals, one from each side, had the score at 1-1 just after the break, but Hayden Wills and Aaron Lewis soon gave the Luton side a two goal cushion. With 15 minutes left, Christian Bamber brought Mursley back in the game, but Ricky Clark made sure of all three points with just four minutes left. **Aston Clinton** also remain just in touch after they completed a 4-1 win over **Markyate**, thanks to goals from Alan Usmani, Darren Woollard, Michael Stockton and Tony Mendicino, with Markyate's sole reply coming from Dale McDermott. **Kent Athletic** are another side whose success in the cups has left them four games behind the leaders, but they won 3-1 away at **Padbury United** to keep hopes alive. Craig Hawkes, Junior George, and Mishak Cole gave them

a three goal lead before Tyrone Bere pulled one back for the home side. **Caddington** relished the short trip to **Totternhoe**, returning with a 5-1 win, including a brace from Bernie Christie, whilst a Robbie Morgan hat trick and a single from Martin Griggs helped **Risborough Rangers** to a 4-1 home win over **Old Bradwell United**, for whom Dave Grainey had opened the scoring.

HERTS SENIOR CENTENARY TROPHY – QUARTER FINALS

Excellent news here as both SSMFL clubs won through to the Semi Finals. **Hoddesdon Town** disposed of **Wormley Rovers** 2-0, with goals from Andy Martin and Peter Ulatowski, whilst **Harpenden Town** overcame **Bovingdon** 3-1 thanks to a brace from Chris Jones and one from Richard Taasse. Unfortunately both clubs have been drawn together in the Semi Final, with Hoddesdon having home advantage.

HERTS INTERMEDIATE CUP

I just knew I was going to get this one wrong last week!! Apologies to those clubs offended by being left out. This competition has now reached the Quarter Final stage, and we have four clubs still involved. **Kings Langley**, who are the holders of the trophy, are away to North Mymms after beating **Cuffley** 2-1 on Saturday, **Colney Heath Reserves** beat **Codicote** 2-1 and are away to Bishops Stortford Swifts (Essex Olympian League) and Hertford Town Reserves are at home to Broxbourne Boro Reserves.

OXHEY JETS GET A BIG RESULT OFF THE PITCH

Great news for Oxhey Jets and thanks to David Fuller for the article below

Three Rivers District Council get Oxhey Jets out of the "Mud"

We may have been having some mixed results on the pitch in recent weeks, but we had a great result last Monday when the Executive Committee of Three Rivers District Council approved the recommendation of their leisure committee to grant Oxhey Jets £35,000 towards the expenditure we have had to make to fix the problems with the Boundary Stadium pitch. We know that the problems with the pitch have been ongoing for the last few years, through no fault of our own, and we really had no choice but to make the decision to spend a total of £70,000, mainly at the end of last season, to ensure that we had a playable pitch this season that would meet the requirement standards of our league.

This was a big risk for the Club, and the individuals involved, but a necessary one. To their credit, Three Rivers District Council has worked with us to understand the problem and give us help and support. They introduced us to STRI, the pitch experts, and helped fund their analysis of the playing surface. We also had the support of Malcolm Clark and the Council Maintenance Department, and the industrial equipment we used about 3 years ago to carve open the clay and see the full extent of the problem was provided by them. In particular, Chris Hope, the Head of Leisure Services at Three Rivers District Council, has been very proactive, coming down to see the state of the pitch on a number of occasions, and raising the profile of this issue within the Council. This has led to the award of £35,000 that we were awarded last week. This is a large sum of money for one project within the Council's budget but they recognised the need to do this, and also they see Oxhey Jets as an important organisation in the South Oxhey area, being more than a football club but a provider of resources and support to the local community. We went to the Executive Committee meeting last Monday and we were delighted with the attitude and response of the Committee, led by Anne Shaw, towards Oxhey Jets and the enthusiasm with which they made this award. We have had a great result about the pitch, now it's time to have some more great results on it!!

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