

## MOLTEN SPARTAN SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE

### NEWSLETTER No.28

*By Bill Scholes*

SATURDAY 16<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2008

*Just the one solitary hat trick on Saturday, scored by Lawrence Bunker of Pitstone & Ivinghoe against Markyate*

#### PREMIER DIVISION ROUND UP

Just three points separate the top three sides (Chalfont St. Peter, Biggleswade Town and Beaconsfield SYCOB) after the latest round of league matches. Two points behind, but still in touch, come Brimsdown Rovers, and they have a six point cushion over Hertford Town, who in turn are two points clear of Langford, who move into the top six for the first time. **Chalfont St. Peter** have their noses in front at the top, with a two point lead over Biggleswade Town, and a game in hand, following their 3-0 home win over **Biggleswade United** – the usual suspects were on the score sheet, Terrell Lewis giving the Saints a first half lead, and Jerome Okimo and Bradley Bubb adding two more in the second half. The second biggest gate of the day (111) was at **Hertford Town** where **Biggleswade Town** were held to a 1-1 draw. Both goals came early on in the first half, and both were from the penalty spot. The first, on 12 minutes, came from Hertford, Kevin Kilroy accepting responsibility after Ryan Redford had been brought down and four minutes later, Waders Scott Field levelled the scores following a foul by Glen Draper. **Beaconsfield SYCOB** kept up the pressure at the top with a comfortable 4-0 win over struggling **Holmer Green** – Aaron Lennon put them on their way with a first half brace, and Stuart Swift and Paul Brett completed the scoring in the second half. **Brimmsdown Rovers** dropped two points in their away game at **St. Margaretsbury**, who took a second minute lead from John Barker and held it until two minutes from the end when Reece Prestedge came up with the valuable equaliser. **Harefield United** appear to be rapidly dropping from the list of contenders as they lost again – this time at home 2-1 to **Kingsbury London Tigers**. Kye Davies gave Tigers the lead after 50 minutes, only for Danny Buckle to bring the Hares level nine minutes later, but Davies popped up with his second a quarter of an hour later to seal the win for the Tigers. **Langford** ended **Leverstock Green's** 13 match unbeaten run with an excellent 3-1 win at Pancake Lane, and in so doing moved themselves up into the heady heights of 6<sup>th</sup> place. Steve Boad put Leverstock into the lead with a goal after 30 minutes, and then scored another just after half time – unfortunately it was into his own net, and Langford went on take all three points with a brace from Gary Walker. **Hanwell Town** dropped out of the top ten for the first time since September as they only managed a 1-1 draw at home to **Aylesbury Vale**. Warren Williams gave Hanwell the lead immediately after the half time break, but Ricky Sinfield equalised with 20 minutes left. This match was one of five 1-1 draws taking place in the Premier – another one was at **Broxbourne Borough V&E** where visitors **London Colney** gained their first point of 2008, thanks to Dominic Haynes whose 59<sup>th</sup> goal cancelled out Danny Ward's earlier strike. The game at Grosvenor Vale also ended 1-1 as born-again **Ruislip Manor** gained their fourth point in two games against **Oxhey Jets**. Justin Bailey gave the Manor an early lead, but Paul Danslow spoiled the party with a 66<sup>th</sup> minute equaliser. The Manor moved out of the bottom two last week and now has a three point cushion over Holmer Green and with two games in hand. At Chalk Lane, **Cockfosters** and **Welwyn Garden City** shared six goals with the Citizens leading on three occasions. Steve Weldon levelled for Cockfosters after Craig Tomkins had given Citizens an early lead and Neil Richardson put Welwyn back in front from the penalty spot just before the break. Twelve minutes after Jaffa time, Dan O'Connor again brought Cockfosters level before two goals in a minute – firstly Richard Morton scoring for Welwyn and then Kevin Reade for Cockfosters - ensured the points were shared. The sixth draw of the day was at the Grass Roots Stadium, where **Tring Athletic** and **Colney Heath** managed to avoid troubling the Results Secretary with either names or times of goalscorers, but did report an attendance figure of 223, which the Results Secretary's hearing aid picked up as 23!

#### DIVISION ONE ROUND UP

Just two points cover the top 6 teams in this Division, and once again the leadership has changed hands, and **Stony Stratford Town** are back on top for the first time since 1<sup>st</sup> September. Albeit it is on goal difference, but they do have two games in hand on second placed Kentish Town. The win that took Stony to the top was a 4-0 home triumph over **Brache Sparta**, and those four goals were vital in ensuring a superior goal difference over Kentish Town. Coincidentally, the last time Stony went top back in September, it was Brache that they beat to do it! A brace from Dave Holloway gave Stony a two goal lead at half time, and Marc Redsull and Darren Dykes scored the all important last two goals. Kentish Town were without a game, but the top two must be looking nervously over their shoulders as **Royston Town** moved effortlessly up into third place with a 4-0 win away at **Cheshunt Reserves**. The Crows extended their unbeaten run to 14 games with a brace from Ashley Townsend and one a piece from Craig Hammond and Tom Malins. **Haringey Borough** remain in close contention in fourth spot, thanks to a 1-0 home win, but they made heavy weather of beating a rejuvenated **Sun Postal Sports**. Ry Hardy was the goal scorer after 75 minutes. Hoddesdon Town were involved in cup action, and **New Bradwell St. Peter** lost the chance to join the leaders at the top when they were held to 0-0 draw at **Amersham Town**. The warm sunshine coming over the Chiltern Hills in the distance made watching from the stand a pleasure, although the constant 'rabbiting' of the visitors towards the officials in the first half left no one in doubt that we were not watching cricket! On balance Peters were probably the better footballing side but the vital cutting edge was missing – Amersham had forwards with pace to trouble Dwayne Chambers, but lacked the composure to finish the several gilt edge chances they created. **Sport London e Benfica** kept themselves on the fringe of the promotion race with a 1-0 win away at **Buckingham Athletic**. In truth, this was a very scrappy and disjointed match with both teams seemingly preferring to play in a corridor down the middle of the pitch. The only action of note in the first half was when Benfica cleared a shot off their goal line. The second half was not much better although there was a goal on 61 minutes as Paulo Cabral strolled through the Buckingham defence to score. Paulo being the left fullback probably said it all! Whist Buckingham dominated the last 20 minutes or so they could not convert any of the several chances they had to rescue the game. Just as well that a strong sun warmed the spectators, as the football certainly did not. **Amphill Town** preserved their mid table status with a 3-1 home win over bottom club **Winslow United**, Stuart Reynolds gave Amphill an early lead after 15 minutes, but it was not until the last ten minutes that they tripled their tally through Michael Owens and Christian Lester, with Ryan Wiffin getting Winslow's consolation goal just before time. **Bedford** recovered from their heavy defeat last week to beat **Cranfield United** 3-1 away - goals coming from Jay Fattouso, Tom Hole and Darek Jozwiak, whilst Jamie Abbott replied with a penalty for Cranfield just before the end. **Arlesey Athletic** and **Bedford Town Reserves** played out 90 minutes without either keeper having to retrieve the ball from the net.

#### DIVISION TWO ROUND UP

For a change, there is no change.....in the top seven positions, that is. **Kings Langley** remain in pole position with a three point lead over AFC Dunstable, but with two games in hand. The leaders could only manage a 1-1 draw away to **Kent Athletic**, who took the lead after 15 minutes through Mishak Cole. Fifteen minutes later, Lee Johnson equalised for the visitors. It was second v fourth down at the Kingsway Ground in Luton, where **The 61FC** held visitors **AFC Dunstable** to a 0-0 draw. **Crawley Green** visited **Old Bradwell United** and came away with a 3-0 win thanks to a brace from Tom Freeman and one from Peter O'Donnell, but still remain in third spot. **Tring Corinthians** moved up a place following their 2-0 home win over **Padbury United** – goals coming from Stephen Lewis and Phil Hawkins, whilst **Pitstone & Ivinghoe** had a comfortable 4-1 win over bottom club **Markyate**. Lawrence Bunker scored a first hat trick for Pitstone before Kevin Temple

weighed in with the fourth goal just after the break – Russell Dodgson got a consolation for the visitors just before the end. **Mursley United** beat **Totternhoe** 3-1 with goals from Craig Ralph, Adam Caesar, and Martin Shaw, whilst Gary Simpson was on target for Totternhoe, and finally **Risborough Rangers** beat near neighbours **Aston Clinton** by a solitary goal, scored after 14 minutes by Ashley Beswick.

### PREMIER DIVISION CUP

In the two delayed 3<sup>rd</sup> Round Cup games played during the week, **Chalfont St. Peter** won 1-0 away to **Hanwell Town** thanks to an early Jerome Okimo goal, whilst a brace from Nick McFarlane was enough to see **Biggleswade Town** to a 2-0 victory over **Ruislip Manor**. In the semi-final, Biggleswade will be away to Chalfont St. Peter. The other semi final was also played during the week, and resulted in a 2-0 win for **Beaconsfield SYCOB** away at **Leverstock Green**. Beaconsfield opened the scoring after just 17 seconds, Aaron Lennon shooting past the Rams ex-keeper Carl Tasker, and Lennon scored his second after 36 minutes. Beaconsfield had to play with 10 men for 78 minutes after Michael Currie was sent off for violent conduct early on – an unwelcome double as he was also sent off against Leverstock in the first game of the season.

### LEAGUE CHALLENGE TROPHY –QUARTER / SEMI FINALS

In the delayed Quarter Final match played on Monday night, **Brimsdon Rovers** overcame **Beaconsfield SYCOB** by a single goal from Danny Bleach in the 25<sup>th</sup> minute of extra time. Thus ended Beaconsfield's excellent run of 16 games without defeat which stretched back from November, and this result means that Brimsdown will now host Holmer Green in the Semi Final. **Chalfont St. Peter** are through to the Final, and keep on track for 4 trophies, as they defeated **Kingsbury London Tigers** 1-0 on Tuesday night. Chalfont left it very late, skipper John Carroll scoring the vital goal with just three minutes left on the clock.

### HERTS SENIOR TROPHY - SEMI FINALS

**Hoddesdon Town** reached the Final with a 3-1 win over league rivals **Harpenden Town**. The Lilywhites goals came from Matt Spire, Andy Martin and Peter Ulatowski, whilst Iaian Turkentine replied for Harpenden. In the Final they will play Herts County league side Hertford Heath, who beat Whitewebbs 2-0 in the other Semi.

### SOMETIMES OUR REFS DO GET IT RIGHT!

News from the Association of Spartan South Midlands Football League Match Officials – a rather extravagant title for our league's referees A report from the Mad Scotsman, Bill Hamilton.

Whatever we may think of their performances on a Saturday afternoon, it seems they are in good heart. 67 of them attended the latest Association meeting at Colney Heath and apart from being given a few words of wisdom from the Referees Appointments Secretary, Mick Ewen – delivered in his own unique style – they were treated to a first class presentation by Football League referee Michael Russell. Many of you may well remember Mike. It's just a few seasons ago that he was officiating in the Spartan South Midlands League. A fast mover – both in terms of fitness and ambition – his style went down extremely well, so much so that he topped the markings list in his very first year on the League and was immediately promoted to the Contributory middle.

Mike is also a very courageous individual which is a good attribute for any referee. He allowed BBC Radio 5 Live to accompany him to a recent Championship match between Leicester City and West Bromwich Albion. A reporter followed him - tape recorder in hand - during his pre-match pitch inspection, recorded his instructions to his two Assistant Referees, talked to him at half-time and sought his own post-match analysis and that of the Referees' Assessor at the conclusion of the game. Of course, there just had to be one major point of controversy. In this case, it was Mike's decision to allow a Leicester equalizer after a long ball up field from the goalkeeper reached the opponents' penalty area and as a Leicester forward leapt into the air to head the ball found himself almost in a collision course with the West Brom goalkeeper who badly misjudged the flight of the ball. On

examination of a DVD of the match, the assessor came to the conclusion that the onrushing forward had actually impeded the keeper and that a free-kick should have been awarded. Mike was told he had been wrong in Law and received an unsatisfactory mark for his performance. After viewing the incident several times, the majority of members at the ASSMFLMO meeting thought that Mike Russell's decision had been the correct one. He told them he had subsequently appealed against the assessor's mark and a Football League panel, on examining the video evidence, ruled in Mike's favour and ordered that a highly satisfactory mark be recorded. On hearing this, the members gave Mike Russell a standing ovation. Chairman Mike Taylor says it was enlightening to witness such openness and honesty not to mention the willingness to let others comment on the difficulties referees at all levels experience.

The meeting concluded with a presentation to the writer of this report - Association Treasurer and Membership Secretary Bill Hamilton whose 50 years of mobility and decision making was recognized by the members, a delightful conclusion to an entertaining evening.

### MOLTEN SPORTS TEAM OF THE MONTH – JANUARY

Congratulations to **Beaconsfield SYCOB** who have been awarded Molten Sports Team of the Month for their performance during January, and they will shortly be presented with their Molten Golden Ball by the League President Mr Brian Smith and Andy Passman from Molten Sports.

### STONY STRATFORD TOWN FC

Require a Fixture's Secretary for the start of next season (2008/2009).

Applicants will be required to work closely with a group of dedicated people in the day to day running of a local football club.

His/Her Duties will include:

1. Confirming all League and cup fixtures for both senior teams, (either by E mail, letter or telephone.) to all opponents and match officials
2. Telephone reporting of all results, including times and names of goal scorers after all home fixtures:
3. Working closely with the clubs General Secretary in all matters concerning fixtures.

Access to an e mail system would be an advantage but not absolutely necessary. Help and guidance will be provided by the current fixtures Secretary and the current General Secretary.

All applicants should contact Steve Sartain - General Secretary, on any of the contact details below  
Tele/Fax: 01908 265306      Mobile: 07901 664000      Clubhouse: 07914 012709  
E mail: [steve.sartain456@btinternet.com](mailto:steve.sartain456@btinternet.com)

*The above vacancy has occurred because Eula Sartain is standing down at the end of this season. Stony Stratford Town FC would like to take this opportunity to thank Eula for the outstanding job she has done over the past six years as the fixtures Secretary. Eula has been married to Steve, the new General Secretary for 28 years, but the football club business is kept at a strictly professional level. Eula worked along side previous Secretary Mr Maurice Barber for a good many years before taking on the fixtures Secretary's position six years ago. She also does all manner of jobs around the club; including the bar and the hospitality food etc. All the players/members and League officials know Eula very well and would like to wish her well, she will be greatly missed*

**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