

MOLTEN SPARTAN SOUTH MIDLANDS FOOTBALL LEAGUE
NEWSLETTER No. 3
By Bill Scholes

The lowest crowd of the weekend was at The 61 FC (Luton) where the number of goals scored by the home side - six - was almost as many as the number of spectators - eleven! There were a total of 6 hat tricks scored over the Sat-Tues period .One of these included a 4-goal spell by Neil Roberts of Aston Clinton against Mursley United. The other hot shots were Wes Byrne for Langford, Gary Simpson for Totternhoe, Felix Kyeremeh for Kent Athletic, Robert Prinzi for Stony Stratford Town and Leon Thomas for Amersham Town.

PREMIER DIVISION ROUND UP - SATURDAY 25th AUGUST 2007

Match of the day saw two of the pre season favourites meet at Pancake Lane on a steaming hot afternoon, when unbeaten **Chalfont St. Peter** maintained their 100% record with a 2-0 win over **Leverstock Green**. With the prolific Mickey Swaysland out injured, Greens goal supply seems to have dried up with their second successive goalless defeat. The first half was goalless until the second minute of injury time, when Saints Jerome Okimo was on hand to take advantage of a flick on from a long throw. Ten minutes after the break, Chalfont doubled their lead, when Terrell Lewis again took advantage of another long throw to shoot past the Leverstock keeper and make it three wins out of three.

Tring Athletic maintained their second place with a 2-0 win at home to **Kingsbury London Tigers**. Paul Aldridge is looking to be a more than useful signing from Hemel Hempstead, and was again outstanding in defence. Tring took the lead in the 29th minute when Trevor Gibbs headed home from a cross by David Whicker, but it was not until the 92nd minute that they could relax when sub Darren Caseman rounded the Tigers keeper to score the vital second goal. Tigers looked a skilful side and continued to battle well, even after going down to 10 men for the last 25 minutes.

Beaconsfield SYCOB left it very late in their quest to return to the Southern League with a 2-1 victory away at **Hertford Town**. The home side took the lead after 83 minutes through Ryan Redford, but SYCOB equalised with a Stuart Swift penalty just 3 minutes later. With 4 minutes of injury time on the clock, Ollie Godwin blasted home from 25 yards to seal all three points for the Rams.

Biggleswade United fought out a close encounter with newly promoted **Brimsdown Rovers**, having to come from behind twice before sealing the game with an 83rd minute winner. Rovers took the lead through Scott Atkinson after half an hour, but United equalised just before half time. Daniel Gaskin missed his penalty kick, but Russell Kemp made no mistake from the rebound. Gavin Taylor restored Rovers lead after 75 minutes, only for James Slack to equalise some 8 minutes later and Kemp scored the winner three minutes later from a Gary Jackson cross.

Biggleswade Town, still playing their home games at Bedford FC, went down 3-1 to last year's pace setters **Harefield United**. Goals from Robert Ursell, Adam Willis and Sean Sonner gave the Hares a three-goal cushion, before Dan Heron scored the Waders consolation goal 15 minutes from the end.

Aylesbury Vale bounced back from the disappointment of their 6-1 FA Cup defeat at Christchurch to beat **London Colney** 2-0. Last week's villain of the piece, Paul Talbot, made early amends to give Vale an early lead and Luke Melisi scored for the second week running to seal the points.

Holmer Green had to wait until March last season before securing their first home win, but such a long wait did not look on the cards in their game against **Broxbourne Borough V&E**, after Daddy Moses rifled home in the 41st minute from a Richard Wilson cross. However, with just two minutes remaining, keeper Dave Clark conceded a penalty, which Daryl Mitchell joyfully rifled home to ensure a share of the spoils.

Hanwell Town gained their first league win of the season with a 2-0 home victory over **Langford**, courtesy of goals from Keith Rowlands - a penalty after just 3 minutes - and Danny Edwards on the hour.

Colney Heath managed their own version of the Great Escape away to **Welwyn Garden City**. Trailing to a Matt Wardle goal, scored after 50 minutes, they equalised through Jason Beck right on the stroke of time, and then Joey Deacon popped up to score the winner in the 3rd minute of added time!

Ruislip Manor remain pointless at the foot of the table following their 4-2 away defeat at **Oxhey Jets**. Luke Lloyd and Jamie Arthur both scored twice for the Jets, with Manor's reply coming from George Mapes and Aaron McLeish.

Newly promoted **Cockfosters** unhappy start to the season continued when they were comprehensively beaten 5-1 at home to **St. Margaretsbury**. Bury established a 4 goal lead through a brace from Louis Rose and singles from Ben Herod and Adam Clark, before Jon Moniatas pulled one back for the home side with three minutes left. There was, however, time for Jason Tang to score Bury's fifth right at the end.

MIDWEEK ROUND UP - MONDAY 27th AUGUST 2007

Just two games played on Bank holiday Monday. In the afternoon, **Brimsdown Rovers** had to come from behind at **Ruislip Manor** to secure their second win of the campaign. John Christian gave Manor the lead after 20 minutes and Eric Manangu restored the balance 5 minutes later. Rovers had to wait until the 87th minute before Ashley Taylor-Forbes wrapped up the three points and leave Manor still pointless.

In the evening, the largest crowd of the weekend (110) saw a resurgent **Beaconsfield SYCOB** end visitors **Tring Athletic's** 100% record as they recorded an emphatic 3-1 win. The phrase "a game of two halves" is often greatly over used, but in this case it really did sum up the game. Tring started with all the confidence of an unbeaten side and dominated the first half. Strong at the back with Paul Aldridge outstanding, the midfield and front line gave the SYCOB defence, particularly the two full backs, a torrid time, but the numerous crosses flashing across the goalmouth were not converted. The only goal of the first half came when Trevor Gibbs was tripped on the bye line, and David Whicker converted the resultant penalty. Within 4 minutes of the restart, the game had turned on its head as Beaconsfield immediately took control. With just two minutes on the clock, Michael Currie was fed through and slipped the ball past the Tring custodian and, two minutes later, Oliver Godwin pounced on a half clearance to rifle an unstoppable shot off the underside of the bar. Tring became almost unrecognizable from the team in the first half, producing a raft of rash challenges, one of which, from David Foskett, resulted in a penalty in the 70th minute - Stuart Swift converting the resultant spot kick to make the final score 3-1. An excellent second half performance from SYCOB - an interesting statistic is that all their goals this season so far have been scored in the second half of their games!

MIDWEEK ROUND UP - TUESDAY 28th AUGUST 2007

Perhaps it was the still, balmy evening, but there were a total of 37 goals scored in the 9 games played - an average of just over 4 a game. Pride of place must go **Cockfosters** who chalked up their first league win of the season with an emphatic 5-0 win away to **Kingsbury London Tigers**. Coming just three days after they lost 5-1 at home to St. Margaretsbury, this was just what the doctor ordered. Jon Moniatis ensured that they got off to a flying start with the opening goal after just 4 minutes and Ben Penfold made it 2-0 at half time. A Eugene Burnbam OG, another from Moniatis, this time a penalty, and one from Dan O'Connor completed an excellent evening for Cockfosters, lifting them off the bottom of the table.

Aylesbury Vale jumped to the top of the table following their 3-0 home win against **Holmer Green**. The game was played at a frantic pace and, although the first half was even, Vale ran in 3 goals in the second half, one from Danny Jones and a brace from Billy Perry.

Erstwhile leaders **Chalfont St. Peter** dropped a place after being held 3-3 at home by **Oxhey Jets**. It was 1-1 at half time, but Jets took an early second half lead through Jamie Arthur, only for Danny Stone to bring Chalfont back on level terms with just over an hour played. Terrell Lewis gave Chalfont the lead for the first time with 15 minutes left, but Ian Holdom levelled the score at 3-3 with 10 minutes left.

A crowd of exactly 100 saw a Wes Byrne hat trick help **Langford** to a 5-1 home victory over near neighbours **Biggleswade United**, Gary Walker and Joe Delasalle making up the other two.

Hertford Town also notched up 5 goals without reply away on their travels at **Colney Heath**. Hertford established a three-goal lead at half time with goals from Nicky Burt, Pablo Ardiles and Kevin Cooper, with Ryan Redford and another from Cooper completing the scoring.

After a sticky start to the season, **Hanwell Town** are back on the winning trail, and eventually triumphed 3-2 away at **Harefield United**, in a game held up for 41 minutes through an injury to Hanwell keeper Simeon Charles after a goalmouth collision. It was thought at first that the keeper had suffered broken ribs, but luckily the ribs turned out to be only very badly bruised. With no substitute keeper on the bench, outfield player went in goal and Harefield scored two quick goals to overturn Keith Rowlands' opener after just two minutes. However, Hanwell fought back, equalised through Danny Edwards with some 20 minutes to go and scored the winning goal right on the stroke of time, courtesy of a Jason Tucker strike.

Leverstock Green made the short journey across the M1 to visit **London Colney** and returned with all three points, thanks to a Mickey Swaysland goal after 31 minutes.

Welwyn Garden City also recorded their first league victory with a 2-1 away win at **St. Margaretsbury**. Matt Wardle gave the Citizens a second half lead, only for Matt Maskell to equalise on 80 minutes. City were not to be denied, however, and Alex Kingsley got the winner two minutes later.

Biggleswade Town took a first half lead through Jamie Steele at **Broxbourne Borough**, and then added two more through Dan Heron and Bradley Harrison in the second half to run out 3-0 winners.