

## MOLTEN SPARTAN SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE

### NEWSLETTER No.30

*By Bill Scholes*

SATURDAY 1<sup>st</sup> MARCH 2008

*No hat tricks this Saturday – must have been the wind!*

#### PREMIER DIVISION ROUND UP

The title race is still dominated by the three C Bee Bee's but the biggest surprise of the day was that the top two going into Saturday's games both lost. The biggest upset of the two came at Mill Meadow, where **Chalfont St Peter** had a bad day at the office as they lost 2-0 to **Colney Heath**, thus ending their 22 run unbeaten sequence. Lee Richard gave the visitors the lead just before half time, and Ashley Amaikhu scored the second on 70 minutes. Second placed **Biggleswade Town** also lost by 5-2, but they were away to **Harefield United** who are having an up and down season. Harefield took the lead after 20 minutes but the visitors hit back through Dan Heron just seven minutes later, and went ahead with Heron's second a minute before half time. In time added on, the Hares hit back as Sean Sonner levelled the scores. Ben Cowan gave Harefield the lead half way through the second half, as the Waders missed several clear chances, and two late goals from Luke Willis and Sonner wrapped up the three points. **Beaconsfield SYCOB** took advantage of the slip ups by the two leaders to move up into second place and level on points with Chalfont, by beating fourth placed **Brimsdown Rovers** 2-0. There was a goal in each half, Mickey Swaysland getting the first and Michael Currie the second, and this win gained some small revenge for their recent dismissal from the League Challenge Trophy by the same opponents. The days biggest league crowd (86) were at the Grass Roots Stadium to see **Tring Athletic** move up into 6<sup>th</sup> place following their 2-0 win over a resurgent **Langford**. The first half was fairly even, with play flowing from one end to the other, but Tring took the lead in the 33<sup>rd</sup> minute when Trevor Gibbs slotted home after having been put in by David Whicker. Tring upped the pace in the second half but couldn't find that final killer touch, and Langford almost equalised when a long range shot from Rob Groves just dipped onto the crossbar, but the home side finally made the game safe when sub Ty North burst to the by line and produced the ideal cross for Wicker to delightedly stab home. **Hertford Town** remain in 5<sup>th</sup> place following their 3-0 win away at **Welwyn Garden City**. The home side took advantage of the strong wind to keep Hertford pinned in their own half for long periods, but the game turned in the 39<sup>th</sup> minute when City's Danny Briggs was sent off for violent conduct and Kevin Cooper scored from the resultant free kick. The Blues had the wind advantage in the second half, but had to wait for their second goal until the 73<sup>rd</sup> minute when Shaun Crossley headed home, and Lee Roberts wrapped up the scoring with just 5 minutes left on the clock **Broxbourne Borough** are another side who are putting a good run together, with just one loss in their last 8 games, and they came away from **Ruislip Manor** with a comprehensive 5-1 victory that puts them up in the top ten. **Hanwell Town's** wretched run of 8 games without a win came to an end with a 2-1 home win over bottom club **London Colney**, thanks to a brace from Keith Rowlands. Gary Doolan replied for Colney. Another side who ended a winless run, but of 5 games, were **Leverstock Green** but they had to rely on two own goals to overcome second from bottom **Holmer Green** 3-1. James Williams and Steve Groves were the two OG culprits whilst the legitimate goals came from Simon Williams (for Holmer) and Allan Arthur for Leverstock. **St. Margaretsbury** beat **Aylesbury Vale** 1-0 with a John Barker penalty after 55 minutes, and **Kingsbury London Tigers** scored two goals in a minute (one a penalty) in the second half to record a 2-0 win over **Biggleswade United** and make the journey back down the A1 more palatable. A goal in the seventh minute from Jon Moniatis looked to have put **Cockfosters** on course for a win at Chalk Lane against **Oxhey Jets**, but in a scrappy game that hardly set the pulse racing and will not live long in the memory, the Jets bounced back late on to secure a point through Tim O'Mara.

## DIVISION ONE ROUND UP

**Royston Town** move ever closer to top spot as they enjoyed a comprehensive 5-1 win away at **Bedford Town Reserves**, a win which takes them to within a point of leaders Kentish Town. The Crows were three goals up with just over 20 minutes played ( a brace from Matt Turl, returning after two months out following a hernia operation, and a single from Craig Hammond), and although Stacey Field pulled one back for Bedford before half time, Jamie Babbage, scoring his first goal for the club, and Hammond's second completed the scoring. Leaders **Kentish Town** were hit by a brace from Adam Furness within 8 minutes in their away game with **Arlesey Athletic** and although Lee Scott scored twice early in the second half to bring them back to level pegging, Athletic's Matt Gibson scored the winner with just four minutes left. **New Bradwell St Peter** got off to a dream start in their home game with **Brache Sparta**, with Lee Coulter scoring after just 11 seconds, and David Cole adding a second 5 minutes later. The remaining 85 minutes were goalless! **Haringey Borough** kept in touch with the leaders, winning 2-1 away at **Ampthill Town**, in a game that was a rehearsal for the forthcoming Division One Cup Final. Boro's two goals came early on from Ry Hardy and Karl Lewis, with Matt Gibson getting Athletic's late consolation. **Cranfield United** remain third from bottom, in spite of winning 2-1 away at **Amersham Town**. Tony Hill and Travis Spencer put the away team two goals up with a quick fire double half way through the second half, and Adamson Ajayi reduced the deficit 10 minutes later. The other three games all finished in draws. Bottom club **Winslow United** gained a valuable point at home to mid-table **Cheshunt Reserves** in a 2-2 draw, but were thankful for an OG on 22 minutes to equalise out Peter Giambrone's 9<sup>th</sup> minute opener. Marvin Hong put Cheshunt back in front before half time, but Richard Shirley ensured the point with a goal in the 75<sup>th</sup> minute. **Harpenden Town** also gained a valuable point in a 1-1 draw away at **Buckingham Athletic** to keep just ahead of Winslow on goal difference, whilst **Bedford** and **Sun Sports Postal** also fought out a 1-1 draw.

#### BERKS & BUCKS INTERMEDIATE CUP – SEMI FINAL

In the all-Milton Keynes semi final of the Berks & Bucks Intermediate Cup, **Stony Stratford Town** meekly surrendered the tie 4-0 to local rivals **PB (MK)** from the North Bucks League. In front of a large vocal crowd, it was PB that took the initiative and scored on 11 minutes as Lee White latched onto a long ball to shoot past Egerton in the Stony goal. Stony tried to get back into the game and a Darren Dykes shot was palmed out by PB keeper Andy Partlow. The half ended with PB missing a great chance to increase their lead. If the watching crowd thought that Stony would overcome their lower league rivals in the second half, they were very much mistaken. Indeed, PB scored their second goal on 54 minutes as the Stony defence stood and watched Dominic Lawless pick his spot to score. The only chance that Stony had was a point blank header from Dykes that Partlow saved, including a follow up shot and was injured in the process. If Stony thought that PB would fade in the closing stages, they were wrong. The visitors continued to dominate play and after a mistake in the Stony defence, Kevin Millington crossed for White to score his second goal on 74 minutes. The final nail in the Stony coffin came almost on full time as a great 25 yard shot from Wayne Bell rocketed into the top corner of the Stony net. Was it a case of the quality of the North Bucks League or that Stony had an off day? Perhaps it was a little of both! PB (MK) will now go on to play Chalfont Wasps, winners for the last two years and looking for the hat trick, in the Final, to be held at Buckingham Town.

#### DIVISION TWO ROUND UP

Pride of place must go to **Markyate** who recorded their first victory of the season with a 2-1 win, and it was away, at **Old Bradwell United**. Rumour has it that goalscorers Aiden Fletcher and Craig Pledge have been given the Freedom of the Village! With leaders Kings Langley in cup action, attention turned to the game between **AFC Dunstable** and **The 61 FC**, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> respectively. It was a game that 61FC won 4-1 with two early goals from Chris Matt and Aaron Lewis and two late

goals from Hayden Wills and Robert O'Sullivan to keep up the pressure on the leaders. Dunstable's reply came from Ikeme Ojulah. **Crawley Green** went down 2-0 away on their travels to **Aston Clinton**, whose goalscorers were Blaine Cahill and Ben Sullivan. **Caddington** remain in 5<sup>th</sup> place after beating **Kent Athletic** 2-0, one of their goals coming from Richard Walsh. Lawrence Bunker kept up his goal-scoring record for **Pitstone & Ivinghoe** as they beat **Risborough Rangers** 1-0 away. In spite of scoring twice in the first ten minutes through Joe Willmott and Darren Simpson, **Totternhoe** could not hang on to their lead, and **Padbury United** fought back with two goals of their own from Steve Keane and Kieran Mathew to ensure a share of the spoils.

### DIVISION TWO CUP SEMI FINAL

I think Icknield Way should be renamed Cold Blow Lane after this Semi Final between **Tring Corinthians** and **Mursley United**. Open to the elements at the top of a hill, the wind blew, and blew, and blew, basically right down the pitch making it very difficult to put any meaningful moves together. Not surprisingly it was goal less after normal time, and after extra time, and Mursley Utd won the penalty shoot out by 5 goals to 4. Mursley will now play the winners of the other Semi Final between Kent Athletic and Kings Langley which takes place this Saturday.

### HERTS INTERMEDIATE CUP – SEMI FINAL

**Kings Langley** remain on course to retain the Cup they won last year, as they beat **Broxbourne Boro Reserves** 3-1 at home. The game was virtually over in the first 5 minutes as the home side rushed into a two goal lead, through Richard Harvey and Paul Gash, and although Matt Kearney pulled one back for Boro early in the second half, Simon Conway made sure of an appearance in the Final, against Bishops Stortford Swifts, with the third goal after 70 minutes.

### LEADING GOALSCORERS – ALL COMPETITIONS inc 1<sup>st</sup> MARCH

In the Premier Division, Kevin Cooper of Hertford Town leads the goal scoring chart in all competitions with 36 goals, 4 ahead of Bradley Bubb of Chalfont St. Peter. However one half (18) of Coopers goals have come in various Cup competitions, and the leading goal scorer in the League is Dan Heron of Biggleswade Town, with 29. Five goals behind come Bubb and Ashley Taylor-Forbes of Brimsdown Rovers, both with 24. In Division One, Darren Dykes of Stony Stratford heads the total list with 25 goals, just one ahead of Craig Hammond of Royston and Adam Furness of Arlesey Athletic. However, all 24 of Hammond's goals have come in the League since mid November, putting him currently top of the pile, just one ahead of Lee Scott of Kentish Town. In Division Two, there is a clear leader in all competitions, and that is James McCarthy of AFC Dunstable. He has 32 goals in all competitions; twelve ahead of Neil Roberts of Aston Clinton, 28 of McCarthy's goals have come in the League, giving a clear lead over Gary Simpson of Totternhoe (17) and Danny Watson of Crawley Green (16)

### PITSTONE & IVINGHOE 50<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY BASH

Pitstone & Ivinghoe F.C. are celebrating their 50th anniversary this year and are holding a reunion night at the club on Saturday 15th March from 8pm onwards. If there is anyone interested in attending they can contact the Club Chairman David Hawkins for more information on 01296 661456, I'm sure there will be many stories told on the night.

### HAVE YOUR SAY.....TO THE BERKS & BUCKS F.A

Further to the item in last weeks Newsletter, which was taken from the Herts FA web site on the FA Strategy for clubs and the responses to the recent National Grass Roots Survey, the Berks & Bucks

FA have pointed out they will be holding a meeting to discuss similar issues within their County, The meeting will be held at the Hilton Hotel, Milton Keynes on Wed 12 March from 7.30 to 10.00.

### CONGRATULATIONS TO.....REFEREE MATTY McLAUGHLIN

I'm sure many of you will remember Matty McLaughlin who refereed with distinction on the SSMFL up to a couple of years ago before gaining a well deserved promotion up to Level 3. Matty has recently been awarded two Cup Finals –one was the FA Women's Premier League Final between Arsenal and Everton on Feb 28<sup>th</sup>, won 1-0 by Everton, and he has also been awarded the accolade of being in charge of the upcoming Isthmian League Cup Final on Wed 2 April between AFC Sudbury and Ramsgate. Well done Matty and congratulations from all at the Spartan South Midlands League.

### STOP PRESS –MIDWEEK RESULTS

#### Dramatic leadership changes in both Premier and Division One.

**Beaconsfield SYCOB** returned to the top of the SSMFL Premier Division for the first time since April 2004, when they beat **London Colney** 4-0 on Monday night. **Chalfont St. Peter** could have regained the leadership 24 hours later, but they could only manage a 0-0 draw at home to **St. Margaretsbury**, but they do keep second spot. **Tring Athletic's** good run continues and their 3-1 win over local rivals **Aylesbury Vale** moves them up to 4<sup>th</sup>, their highest position of this campaign, whilst **Hanwell Town** had a good 3-0 home win over **Harefield**.

In Division One, **Royston Town** are the new leaders, albeit only on goal difference, following their point gained in a 2-2 draw away at **Amersham Town** on Tuesday. From bottom in mid November to top at the beginning of March is a fairy tale story ( perhaps they'll make a film!) but with only three points separating the top 6 clubs, there is many a slip twixt cup and lip. Both **Haringey Boro** and **Hoddesdon Town** enjoyed 2-0 wins, the latter over title rivals **Stony Stratford**, to move within a point of the leaders, whilst **New Bradwell** surprisingly lost 5-3 away at bottom club **Winslow Utd**.

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

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