

MOLTEN SPARTAN SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE

NEWSLETTER No.31

By Bill Scholes

SATURDAY 8th MARCH 2008

After last weeks drought, there were 5 hat tricks this Saturday – one in the Premier Division and four in Division Two - two in the same game. In the Premier, Luke Melisi scored three for Aylesbury Vale, whilst in Division Two Peter O'Donnell and Tom Freeman both netted three times for Crawley Green. Joining them on the honours board were Adrian Fontenelle for Caddington and Gary Capel for AFC Dunstable.

PREMIER DIVISION ROUND UP

There was late, late drama involving the three title contestants at the top of the table. Leaders **Beaconsfield SYCOB** went behind at **Leverstock Green** to a Matt Wardle penalty just before half time, but fought their way back into the game with a hotly debated goal from much travelled recent signing Craig O'Connor. The temperature rose and Leverstock's Allan Arthur and Beaconsfield's Player manager Jamie Jarvis were involved in an angry exchange, which saw Arthur dismissed for a second yellow. Beaconsfield's winner came in the 6th minute of added on time, again hotly contested, and leaving the home side extremely aggrieved. The clash between the second and third teams ended in a 1-1 draw, with **Chalfont St. Peter's** late equaliser at **Biggleswade Town** coming from Ryan Welsh in the 9th minute of added on time. Jamie Steele had given the Waders the lead in the 40th minute, but they were unable to add to the lead thanks to some inspired keeping from the Saints custodian. Beaconsfield now lead Biggleswade Town by three points, with Chalfont a point further back. Both Beaconsfield and Chalfont have played the same number of games, but Biggleswade have played two more. **Brimsdown Rovers** move back into 4th place after a 3-1 home win against **Biggleswade United** – another brace from Ashley Taylor–Forbes - and they leapfrog over **Tring Athletic** who somewhat surprisingly lost 2-1 away at **Kingsbury London Tigers**. **Langford** are back in the top six, following their 2-1 home win over **Welwyn Garden City**, but they were another side who left it late with the winner from Joe Delaselle coming in the last three minutes. **Hertford Town** lost a home league game for the first time since August 2007 when they went down 2-0 to **Harefield United**, whose leading scorer Sean Sonner had decamped to Northwood during the week. Another player also on his travels during the week was Hertford's Ian Cooper, brother of Kevin, who joined Hemel Hempstead. **Broxbourne Borough's** recent mini revival hit the buffers as they went down 3-2 at home to **Aylesbury Vale**, for whom Luke Melisi scored all three. Lee Teagle and Michael Nathan were on target for Boro. **Holmer Green** moved out of the bottom two, just, as they beat **London Colney** 4-1. All 5 goals came in the second half, with Simon Williams, Tom Davis, Luke Byrne and Danny Craggs scoring for the Greens whilst Anthony Kane scored Colney's late consolation. **Ruislip Manor** lost 1-0 away at **St. Margaretsbury**, a goal from Andy Birnie sealing their fate, and this result drops them back into the bottom two. They do have a game in hand in hand over Holmer Green, and this coming Saturday's clash between the two teams could go a long way to deciding the relegation positions. **Oxhey Jets** beat **Hanwell Town** 3-0 at home, helped by a brace from Tim O'Mara, whilst the game between **Colney Heath** and **Cockfosters** finished scoreless.

DIVISION ONE ROUND UP

The top of the table really is in a state of flux as 5 points cover the top 6 teams, with the lead changing hands three times over the past 7 days. Last Saturday Kentish Town were on top – on Tuesday they were usurped by Royston Town, albeit on goal difference, and now **Haringey Borough** are back in the driving seat, having moved up from 5th place only a week ago! The Boro

won their second game in 5 days, beating Sport London e Benfica 2-0 in the week, and beating **Bedford Town Reserves** by the same score on Saturday - Ry Hardy and Andrew Stokes coming up with the two all-important goals in the second half. Match of the day was at **Hoddesdon Town** where the Lilywhites, fresh from their important 2-0 midweek win over Stony Stratford, and in front of the day's biggest crowd of 105, entertained in-form **Royston Town**, who led the table going into the game. Craig Hammond gave the Crows an early lead, but it didn't last long as Andy Martin headed Hoddesdon back on level terms from a well taken corner. With just over half hour played Martin's head again connected with a corner and Hoddesdon were in the lead. Shortly afterwards, Royston lost leading scorer Hammond to an injury and never quite posed the same threat again. Hoddesdon looked to increase their lead in the second half, but didn't quite manage it, and with 7 minutes left Luke Robins converted from the penalty spot to give Royston a share of the spoils and maintain their 17 match unbeaten run. Hoddesdon moved up from 6th to 4th with this result and now sit just two points behind Haringey Boro, who they were due to play this Tuesday, but the match has now fallen foul of the weather. **New Bradwell St Peter** hoped to bounce back against visitors **Arlesey Athletic** after their shock loss in midweek against lowly Winslow united. However, it was the visitors who took all three points in an entertaining but windswept match. Peters were playing with a strong wind at their backs in the first half but it was Arlesey that scored on only 8 minutes when Lee Shambrook broke clear and lobbed the ball over the advancing Peters keeper and into the net. Peters spent the rest of the half trying to equalise and only a goal line clearance and a great save from keeper Scot Walters kept them at bay. The second half was dominated by the home team but to no avail as another chance was headed off of the goal line. Arlesey also had their chances and Peters just survived when a goal line clearance prevented the ball running to a forward about to give the 'coup de grace.' Despite huffing and puffing, Bradwell never really looked like scoring and Arlesey comfortably held on for the much needed win. As a result, New Bradwell slip back from 3rd to 5th, and **Stony Stratford Town** went from 4th to 6th as they also lost their second game in 5 days, going down 2-0 away at **Cheshunt Reserves** – Raf Mwamba and Marvin Hong scoring for the home side. **Sport London e Benfica** enjoyed a 3-0 win at home to **Cranfield United**, and **Amptill Town's** leading goalscorer Stuart Reynolds notched another two as they won 2-0 away at **Sun Postal Sports**. The loyal 5 spectators at **Brache Sparta** were rewarded with a Keith Justin goal after just 4 minutes which gave the home side a 1-0 win over visitors **Buckingham Athletic** - I hope they were in their seats in time. Another side with 2 wins in the last 5 days are **Winslow United**, and having beaten title aspirants New Bradwell in the week, they showed it was no fluke as they recorded a 4-2 win at home to **Bedford FC**. All the goals came in the second half. Michael Harris and Ryan Wiffin put Winslow two up, before Callum Lewis reduced the deficit on 63 minutes. A hectic last 5 minutes saw Gary Acheampong restore Winslow's two goal cushion, Darek Jozwiak converted a penalty a minute later to make it 3-2, only for Craig Hayward to add Winslow's fourth in the final minute. These 6 points gained moved Winslow off the bottom and up to 15th place. Replacing them at the foot of the stairs are **Harpenden Town**, who lost 2-1 at home to **Amersham Town**, after leading for most of the game. Nash Barker and Reon Thomas were Amersham's saviours with two goals in the last 8 minutes.

DIVISION TWO ROUND UP

What a fickle game football is! Last week **Markyate** won their first game of the season – presumably they were out all week celebrating - as on Saturday they lost 13-1 away to **Crawley Green**, for whom Peter O'Donnell and Tom Freeman both scored hat tricks and Josh West and Luke Singleton weighed in with a brace each. **AFC Dunstable** finally caught up with Kings Langley and take over top spot, on goal difference, from the long time leaders, but they have played 4 games more. Dunstable won 4-2 away at **Old Bradwell United**, thanks to a hat trick from Gary Capel and a single from recent signing from Kent Athletic, Felix Kyeremeh. Crawley Green's win keeps them in 3rd place, but helps their goal difference no end, whilst **The 61FC** drop back a place to 5th, as they could only gain a point in their 1-1 draw away at **Risborough Rangers**. Oliver Goundry gave the Luton side an early lead, but Risboro's Andrew Hird secured the draw with the equaliser in the 70th minute. **Caddington** moved up a place to 4th following their 8-0 home win over **Padbury United**.

There were 6 different goalscorers, including Adrian Fontenelle who notched a hat trick. Lawrence Bunker was again amongst the goals for **Pitstone & Ivinghoe**, getting both in their 2-0 win at home to **Mursley United**, whilst **Aston Clinton** returned from **Tring Corinthians** with a 1-0 win, courtesy of Stefan Wilson.

DIVISION TWO CUP SEMI FINAL

Long time league leaders **Kings Langley** were taken to extra time in their semi final away at **Kent Athletic**, but eventually triumphed 2-1 and will meet Mursley United in the Final.

BEDS INTERMEDIATE CUP SEMI FINAL

Amphill Town Reserves had to face the dreaded penalty shoot out after they remained locked at 1-1 with **Dunstable United** following 120 minutes of playing time. However they emerged triumphant 4-2 winners after the penalties, and will meet Stotfold Reserves in the Final, which will be played on Wed 23rd April at AFC Kempston Rovers.

CONGRATULATIONS TO.....REFEREES PAUL FAITHFULL & MARK MELLOR

More Cup Final appointments and congratulations to two of our current Level 4 referees, **Paul Faithfull** and **Mark Mellor** who have both been appointed as assistants in the Southern League (Erreara Cup) cup final between Hillingdon Borough and Clevedon Town. Paul will an assistant in the first leg at Hillingdon and Mark has been appointed as an assistant in the second leg.

NEWS FROM KENTISH TOWN

Kentish Town's Head Coach, **Clement Temile**, who joined from Haringey Borough at the start of last season and who has been instrumental in their success this season, has recently won the prestigious Jack Petchey Foundation Leader Award, as well as £1000, which will go to a future project of the Club's choice involving young people, An excellent achievement and congratulations to Clement.

LEAGUE CUP FINALS

Challenge Trophy: Chalfont St. Peter v Brimsdown Rovers or Holmer Green

Premier Division Cup: Chalfont St. Peter v Beaconsfield SYCOB

Division One Cup: Amphill Town v Haringey Borough

Division Two Cup: Kings Langley v Mursley United

Dates, venues and kick off times for all the above will be announced shortly

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

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