

## MOLTEN SPARTAN SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE

### NEWSLETTER No.36

*By Bill Scholes*

SATURDAY 5<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2008

Apologies for the slightly truncated Divisional round ups, there was a bit of an (human) administrative malfunction on the IT front, delaying publication of all the facts and figures but normal service is now happily resumed.

*There was just the one hat trick this week, but only 1 spectator (hopefully of the paying variety) saw it. The hat trick hero was Lee Hayward of Brache Sparta who surely deserved a wider audience for his efforts!*

#### PREMIER DIVISION ROUND UP

**It's still very tight at the top of the table as just one point separates the top three teams. Leaders Beaconsfield SYCOB, just on goal difference, probably remain the bookies favourites as they have a game in hand over Chalfont St. Peter and two games in hand over Biggleswade Town. Both challengers won to keep up the pressure and the game on Saturday between Biggleswade Town and Beaconsfield is beginning to look all-important.**

Understandably **Beaconsfield** were left feeling a little aggrieved as their game at **Tring Athletic** was abandoned at half time due to a waterlogged pitch – they were leading 2-0 at the time. Needless to say, the reports on both clubs websites told very different stories! **Biggleswade Town** came away from **Aylesbury Vale** with an emphatic 4-0 victory and the three points that puts them level with Beaconsfield. Dan Heron got the first from the penalty spot after he himself was brought down, but was stretched off following an accidental clash of heads early in the second half. Undaunted, Keith Thomas took over the goal scoring mantle with a brace to add to Bradley Harrison's goal. **Chalfont St. Peter** bounced back from their midweek draw with Ruislip Manor to beat **Brimsdown Rovers** 3-1 at home, but they had to come from behind to do it. Ashley Taylor-Forbes gave Rovers the lead, but two goals from Jerome Okimo and one from Charlie Strutton secured the vital win. **Hertford Town** were looking to avenge their earlier defeat by **Ruislip Manor** in the return fixture, but could only manage a 1-1 draw. A stunning strike from Ryan Wade to give the Blues the lead after a truly turgid 48 minutes, was cancelled out by a howler of an own goal from keeper Mark Virgo after 64 minutes. Despite taking an early lead against **Holmer Green** through Dan O'Connor, **Cockfosters** were never able to force home the first half advantage. A horrendous defensive mix up allowed Danny Craggs to bring Holmer level early in the second half. Aaron Ewing fired Cockfosters in front after 73 minutes but in a crazy climax in which the Green were awarded two penalties, Andy Wheeler- King missed the first but sub Alvin Rajaman converted the second to salvage an important point for Holmer. The local derby between the two Colneys was won by **Colney Heath** who defeated **London Colney** 1-0,- the goal sadly coming from an OG, a result which confirmed that London Colney will finish in bottom spot. The other relegation spot now lies between Ruislip Manor and Holmer Green, with both clubs facing a struggle to survive off the pitch as well as on it. After three games without a win, **Leverstock Green** returned to form as a goal in each half, from James Armstrong and Frankie Jowle, earned them a 2-0 home win over a **Hanwell Town** side that had won five of their previous six games. **Langford** earned a point in a 2-2 draw at home to **Kingsbury London Tigers**, with all four goals coming in the first half. The visitors took a very early lead through Danilson Vicente, only for Lee Pateman to bring Langford back on level terms after 35 minutes. Joe Delaselle put the home side in front just before the break, only for Henry Emenike to level it up in added on time. **Harefield United's** 4-0 away win at **Welwyn Garden City** included a brace from Paul Haynes, and singles from Luke Willis and Patrick Lawrence, whilst a brace from Matt Maskell helped **St. Margaretsbury** to a 3-1 win at home to **Oxhey Jets**. The game between **Biggleswade United** and **Broxbourne Borough** finished with honours even in a 1-1 draw – Martin Russell scoring for the home side and Danny Ward equalising for the Boro.

## DIVISION ONE ROUND UP

The race for the title and those valuable promotion places remains extremely tight, with just four points still covering the top 5 teams. On paper, the match of the day was at Barnet Cophall Stadium where second placed **Kentish Town** entertained table toppers **Hoddesdon Town**. A disappointing crowd of only 29 watched the game, which to be fair was not a classic, and one of the highlights of the first half was a discussion between the league's two IT specialists (sic) - Messrs Gilmore and Harrison - on the relative merits of Blackberries, Strawberries, Raspberries and Blueberries! A strong wind blowing the length of the pitch did not help, as both teams struggled to get to grips with the conditions. Thankfully the second half was much improved and came to life 10 minutes after the restart when Town's Lee Scott escaped down the left and from a narrow angle, slotted the ball firmly across the keeper into the far corner. The home side could have extended their lead on the hour but for a remarkable goal line clearance from Adam Arnold. However the second goal did come 14 minutes later when full back Roberto Quattromini found himself in acres of space down the left and unleashed a powerful strike of which Roberto Carlos would have been proud. Hoddesdon did have opportunities to at least gain a point, but several chances went begging, as they failed to find the net for the first time since mid December. This win sent Kentish town back to the top of the table, but with both teams having played 31 games, the lead is only one point. **Haringey Borough** remain in third place, just three points behind the leaders, following their 3-0 win away at **Sun Postal Sports**, but they do have a game in hand. **Stony Stratford Town** leapfrogged near-neighbours **New Bradwell St. Peter** as they won 3-2 at home in their local derby. The game was evenly balanced at two apiece with just over 30 minutes played but Darren Dykes, from the penalty spot, scored his second of the game to seal the points for Stony. **Royston Town** slipped to their third defeat in their last 6 games as they went down 2-1 at home to **Arlesey Athletic** and will now have to rely on the teams above them dropping points if they are to realise their dream of promotion. Sadly there was just the one spectator (name and address withheld) at **Brache Sparta**, but hopefully he will have enjoyed himself as he witnessed the goal fest between the home side and **Bedford Town Reserves**, a game in which the visitors finally triumphed 5-3. I wonder where the other 4 regulars have gone. **Sport London e Benfica** look like consolidating a top ten finish in their first season in the SSMFL as they beat visitors **Cheshunt Reserves** 2-1, whilst **Amptill Town** overcame **Buckingham Athletic** by 4 goals to 1. **Amersham Town** have now resolved the mystery of the disappearing goalposts and moved themselves up into 12<sup>th</sup> place with a hard fought 4-2 win over visitors **Bedford FC**. It's still close at the bottom of the table, but **Harpenden Town** obtained a very useful three points with a 3-0 win over bottom club **Cranfield United**.

#### DIVISION TWO ROUND UP

Following their 3-2 win over **Aston Clinton**, **Kings Langley** are now just three points away from winning the Division Two title with three games left to play. **Crawley Green** beat hapless **Markyate** 5-0 to ensure that they finish above AFC Dunstable, but still need a few more points to make sure of the runners up spot. **AFC Dunstable's** league campaign finished with a disappointing 3-2 away defeat to near neighbours **Totternhoe**, a defeat which means they can finish no higher than third, but also means that they could still be overhauled by the four clubs below them. **The 61FC's** hopes of a top three spot were jolted as they lost 2-0 at home to **Tring Corinthians**, but **Pitstone & Ivinghoe** kept their hopes alive with a 5-0 win over **Mursley United**. In the day's other game, **Kent Athletic** won 3-2 at home to **Old Bradwell United**, a result that confirms a bottom two finish for Bradwell.

#### BERKS & BUCKS SENIOR TROPHY FINAL

The final of the above competition will be played at **Haywood Way**, home of **Aylesbury Vale** on Wednesday 23 April with a 7.45 KO. The two finalists are **Beaconsfield SYCOB** and **Newport Pagnell** (United Counties League)

## REFEREES PROMOTIONS

Four of our Level 4 referees, Mark Mellor, Chris O'Donnell, Darren Flanagan and Michael Mackey have all received their promotions to level 3. Anthony Serrano, who is also on our list, but referees' on the Western League whilst at university, has also been promoted. Heartiest congratulations to all five. There were a total of 67 referees at Level 4's who were promoted throughout the country and we were the only supply league (out of 37) to have four (five if you count Serrano) promoted. This is an excellent testament to the effort, hard work and dedication shown, not only by Refs secretary Mick Ewen, but also by Tony Weight and the excellent assessing scheme. The other Leagues had ones and two's.

## LEAGUE CUP FINALS and REFEREES APPOINTMENTS

Below are the details for the up coming League Cup finals, as well as the Referee appointments. Congratulations to all the teams involved, and to the all referees for achieving these prestigious appointments:

### **Challenge Trophy Final: Brimsdown Rovers V Chalfont St Peter**

Date: Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2008 KO 7.45pm Venue: Hanwell Town FC

Referee: M. Mackay, Assistant Referees: P. Panayiotou C. Checketts 4<sup>th</sup> Official: C. O'Donnell

### **Premier Division Cup Final: Chalfont St Peter V Beaconsfield SYCOB**

Date: Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2008 KO 7.45 pm Venue: Harefield United FC

Referee: Mark Mellor Assistant Referees: Ben Furneaux and Jake Hillier 4<sup>th</sup> Official: Liam Walshe

### **Division One Cup Final: Ampthill Town V Haringey Borough**

Date: Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2008 KO 3.00pm Venue: London Colney FC

Referee: Carl Henry Assistant Referees; Russ Endacott and Denis Elkins 4<sup>th</sup> Official: Chris Scott

### **Division Two Cup Final: Mursley United V Kings Langley**

Date: Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> April KO 7.45pm Venue: Tring Athletic FC

Referee: Shaun Cavanagh Assistant Referees: Colin Baker and Bill Hamilton

4<sup>th</sup> Official: Steve Conway

### **Reserve Challenge Trophy Final: Cockfosters V Colney Heath**

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2008 KO 7.45pm Venue Brimsdown Rovers FC

Referee: Peter Hern Assistant Referees: Steven Pordes & Geoff Lewis 4<sup>th</sup> Official: Stewart Beardon

## WELWYN GARDEN CITY

After three seasons in charge of first team affairs at Herts Lane, Howard Cowley made the decision to stand down as Manager last week. Coach Dave Lewis has been appointed as caretaker manager.

## CHALFONT ST. PETER PROGRAMME

The Chalfont programme received good coverage in the Non League Today paper on Sunday, with Editor **Stuart Latham** receiving 8 out of 10 for his efforts. Stuart informs me that he going to try and break his own record with a 72 page offering for their upcoming game with Tring Athletic.

## HERTFORD TOWN RESERVES

Congratulations to Hertford Town Reserves who became the first champions of the SSMFL's 6 Divisions when they clinched the Reserve Division One title with a 3-1 over Oxhey Jets. Unbelievably, this is Hertford Town's first title for 47 years. Should be worth a few beers!

**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 01494 713867