

MOLTEN SPARTAN SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE

MIDWEEK NEWSLETTER No.39

By Bill Scholes

TUESDAY 15th/WEDNESDAY 16th/THURSDAY 17th APRIL 2008

PREMIER DIVISION ROUND UP

One of the most competitive seasons for a few years is finally drawing to a close, and Beaconsfield SYCOB now need just a point from their remaining two games to become champions. Last night, Beaconsfield made great strides towards the title when they beat Tring Athletic 2-1 in their replayed fixture. Two weeks ago, the game was abandoned at half time due to a waterlogged pitch with Beaconsfield leading 2-0 – at half time last night the score line was the same thanks to a Stuart Swift penalty and a goal from Craig O'Connor. Tring fought back in the second half, and Mark Burfoot reduced the deficit in the 78th minute, giving the Rams a very nervy last 12 minutes. However they hung on for the three points and could clinch the championship on Saturday at home to Kingsbury London Tigers.

The battle is on for second place with Chalfont St. Peter still having the edge over Biggleswade Town, even though they could only manage a 1-1 draw away at Broxbourne Borough. Skipper John Carroll gave the Saints the lead from the penalty spot after 11 minutes but went off injured shortly afterwards. Danny Ward equalised just after the break, and so it remained until the end. Leverstock Green beat relegated London Colney 3-1 at home with goals from Stuart Bailey, Allan Arthur and Dale Sears, Sam Mitchell getting a late consolation for Colney. Langford moved into the top six with a good 2-1 win away at Hertford Town. The away side went two goals up by half time thanks to Gary Walker and Joe Delasalle, but although leading scorer Kevin Cooper pulled one back immediately after the restart, Hertford could not find the equaliser. They do however remain in fourth place. Six goals were shared at The Grass Roots Stadium but Oxhey Jets left it until the 90th minute to get the equaliser against Tring Athletic. Sam Worrall gave Jets the lead, which was quickly wiped out by Trevor Gibbs, and 11 minutes later Ty North put the home side in front. Jets then scored the next three goals, but only two were in the opponents net – one was in their own! Two first half goals were enough for Cockfosters to gain their second win in four days, as they beat Aylesbury Vale 2-1. Dan O'Connor got the first and Ben Andreas the second, before Luke Melisi got one back for the Vale.

DIVISION ONE ROUND UP

Although the race for the Premier Division title is almost over bar the shouting, the same cannot be said for Division One, which continues to keep the nerves a-jangling for three clubs. Kentish Town, with two home victories in three days this week, (and Chelsea are moaning about playing two games in three days!) now have a lead of 7 points, but they have played two games more than Hoddesdon Town, and three more than Haringey Boro.

Kentish Town followed up Monday's 3-1 win over Ampthill Town with a 4-1 victory over Arlesey Athletic. Lee Scott got a customary brace, starting the scoring and finishing it, with Ali Meerza and Jonathan Donoghue also weighing in, whilst Mark Phillips replied for Athletic. Hoddesdon Town had the chance to move above Haringey, but in front of a goodly crowd of 91 could only manage a 2-2 draw away at Cheshunt Reserves. Craig Hinton and Aaron Tourlmain scored for Hoddesdon but it was two good strikes from Tom Tresadern that gave Cheshunt a share of the spoils and left Hoddesdon really needing a win at Haringey next Tuesday to stay in the hunt. The attendance at Brache Sparta was more than double that of last Saturday, but unfortunately they could not cheer on a win, as Harpenden Town's Chris Gregory scored the only goal of the game just 6 minutes from the end.

IN THE NEWS –THE TIMES ON LINE

Thanks to Cliff Rhodes of Kentish Town for the following article.

Nigeria has been looking to England to find a manager to replace Berti Vogts, dumped 13 months into a four-year contract after the African Cup of Nations. But, rather than Steve McClaren, they identified Clement Temile, head coach of lowly Kentish Town, as a candidate for the hot seat. Temile, a former African Player of the Year, did not get the job but has led the North London side to the brink of promotion from the Molten Spartan South Midlands Football League Division One - probably a greater success than any Vogts had with Nigeria or Scotland. "I am not ready," Temile said. "I want to gain more experience. I know my country - if you're not prepared, they can mess you up."

RISBOROUGH RANGERS – ANDY PEEL MEMORIAL MATCH

Risborough Rangers are having a memorial game in order to raise funds for the two young children of long-standing club stalwart Andy Peel, who tragically died back in January. The game will be played at Risborough Rangers FC on Sunday 27th April at 2pm.

The teams will be comprised of one side that used to play alongside Andy at Risborough over the last ten years or so and one from his earlier days at Aylesbury Utd and Stocklake (*who became Haywood United and then the present-day Aylesbury Vale*).

Anybody who knew Andy or wishes to come along to the game would be most welcome.

Further details can be obtained from the Club Secretary Nick Bishop - 01844 342934 or 07855 958236 or see Handbook for further club details.

HERTS CHARITY SHIELD SEMI FINAL

Welwyn Garden City produced a second half revival to overcome Oxhey Jets 2-1 last night and set up a Final appearance against Tring Athletic. Mark Ayres opened the scoring for the Jets in the first half, but the Citizens bounced back with goals from Craig Tomkins and Jackson Fossey.

HUNTS PREMIER CUP – QUARTER FINAL

Biggleswade United moved into the semi finals of the Hunts Premier Cup (I thought Biggleswade was in Bedfordshire!) with a 2-1 win away at Huntingdon Town. Shaun Murray and Robbie O'Dell scored the all important goals.

I'm still thawing out from my trip to the Rose Bowl. Amazing – a crowd of around 600, two competitive teams, 6 hours play and I did not hear one use of the f or c word all day. How pleasant..... I wonder why that was?

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