

MOLTEN SPARTAN SOUTH MIDLANDS FOOTBALL LEAGUE NEWSLETTER No. 4

By *Bill Scholes*

There were 5 hat tricks scored on Saturday. Sarfraz Pivano scored all three for Broxbourne Borough in their FA Cup win, as did Adriano Gomesmarques for his club Kingsbury London Tigers in the Premier. Three hat tricks in Division One - Ronardson Odinna for Haringey Borough, Claudio Da Silva for Sport London e Benfica, and Paul Draycott for Bedford Town Reserves.

PREMIER DIVISION ROUND UP

Saturday 1st September 2007

There were only 4 League games played due to FA Cup matches, with the pick of the day being the game between **Aylesbury Vale** and title hopefuls **Leverstock Green**. Vale went into the game as unbeaten league leaders, but visitors Leverstock Green took the lead after 25 minutes when a cross from James Armstrong was headed powerfully home by Mickey Swaysland. The lead was maintained until the 69th minute, when a hotly debated penalty for handball was awarded to Vale, and Billy Perry duly slotted home. Vale went ahead 10 minutes later - Kyle Kilmartin heading home a corner. A few minutes later, Green was back on terms with a penalty of their own - Steve Flain converting the spot-kick after a foul on Anthony Page. With Chalfont engaged in the FA Cup, the point Vale gained was enough to put them one point clear at the top.

Harefield United got their challenge back on track with an emphatic 4-1 win at home to **London Colney**. The Hares went 2-0 up inside 15 minutes with goals from Danny Bentley and Sean Sonner, and a brace from Craig Totton increased the tally to four goals, before Steve Howes' late consolation goal for Colney.

The 24 visitors to **Kingsbury London Tigers** would have seen the home side race into a 3 goal lead in just 26 minutes, thanks to a hat trick from Adriano Gomesmarques, only for **Biggleswade United** to reduce the deficit four minutes later through Marc Holmes. Last season's top scorer Robbie O'Dell scored two minutes after the restart to give the visitors hope, but the home side held on.

Holmer Green had hopes of a first home victory when newly promoted **Brimsdown Rovers** came visiting, but were up against it when Adam Chaumerton put through his own net after 11 minutes. Only 1-0 down, the Greens still harboured thoughts of at least snatching a point, but Rovers wrapped up all three a couple of minutes from the end, courtesy of Scott Atkinson.

DIVISION ONE ROUND UP

With early leaders Bedford FC involved in FA Cup action, **Stony Stratford Town** took the opportunity to go top by defeating rivals **Brache Sparta** 3-2. In front of a sparse crowd of 10, Stony took the lead after just 6 minutes through Robert Prinzi, but goals from Darren Edwards and James Ingram took Brache into a 2-1 lead at half time. Stony upped their game in the second half and equalised through Darren Dykes on the hour, but had to wait until the last minute before the same player notched the winner. **Haringey Borough** kept up the pressure on the leaders with a 5-1 demolition of **Royston Town**, who are not enjoying the best of starts to life in Division One. Ronardson Odinna scored the first three Boro goals within the hour, and Chima Odiji added two late goals in the last 10 minutes. Royston's sole reply came from Albert Adudonyianah.

The division's biggest win came from **Sport London e Benfica**, who beat **Winslow** 6-1, helped by a hat trick from Claudia Da Siva, whilst **Bedford Town Reserves** had a good 4-1 win away at **Sun Postal Sports**. Paul Draycott was the hat trick hero for town Reserves.

Hoddesdon Town were grateful to Peter Ulatowski's 74th minute goal to maintain their unbeaten record in the 1-1 draw with **Amptill Town**, Christian Lester giving the home side the lead. The battle of the two Athletics- **Buckingham** and **Arlesey** ended all square at 1-1- Mark Phipps giving Arlesey the lead on 53 minutes, only for Jason Benjafiel to equalise 7 minutes later. **Amersham Town**, under new management, scored their second successive victory with a 2-1 home win over **Kentish Town**. The visitors took the lead after 10 minutes through Nicolai Alexi, but Jude Eboji equalised just before half time. With just 7 minutes left, Barry Ackerley scored the winner. **New Bradwell St. Peter** overcame **Cranfield United** 1-0, thanks to a second half goal from Ricardo Archer, whilst **Harpenden Town** and **Cheshunt Reserves** shared a 1-1 draw - Chris Gregory's 87th minute equaliser for Town negating Shane Williams's opener for Cheshunt.

DIVISION TWO ROUND UP

The biggest crowd in the division (48) saw **AFC Dunstable** take over top spot by winning away at **Pitstone & Ivinghoe** 3-2, with all the goals coming in the second half. On the score sheet for Dunstable were Ikeme Ojulah, Michael Kinloch, and Rohan Deroses, with Adam Rees and James Mountfort replying for Pitstone. **Kings Langley** moved up into second place, thanks to their 2-1 win away at **Caddington**. The home side went in front through Adrian Fontenelle, but Simon Conway equalised for the visitors. **Tring Corinthians** recorded their first win of the season, beating bottom side **Padbury United** 5-1 away. The goals were spread around with a brace from Oliver Waite, and singles for Joynul Hoque, Harry Wheeler and Lee Herring. **Crawley Green** beat **Aston Clinton** 3-1, with goals from Jason Young (2) and Daniel Wilson, and **Mursley United** beat **Old Bradwell United** by the same scoreline. courtesy of goals from Stuart Homer, Brian Nixon, and Martyn Shaw. **Totternhoe** just edged out **Markyate** 3-2 - four of the five goals coming in a 20-minute period just before the end and, last but not least, **Kent Athletic** and **Risborough Rangers** drew 0-0.

LEAGUE ATTENDANCE FIGURES

A look at the league attendance figures for August issued in this week's bulletin shows up some interesting facts. Generally attendances seem to be on the low side, but traditionally August is not a strong football-watching month. In the Premier Division, only three instances of 100+ crowds, and Biggleswade United featured in two of these! - Away to Harefield and away to Langford. The other was Beaconsfield SYCOB v Tring Athletic. Funnily enough, the lowest attendance was 21 at the other Biggleswade (Town), but they do play at Bedford! In Division One, Winslow cracked the 100+ barrier in their derby game with Buckingham Athletic. The next highest was at Amptill (75) in their game against Stony Stratford, whilst New Bradwell recorded 70, also against Buckingham Athletic. Brache Sparta could consider offering a free bus service from Luton, with two attendances of 6 and 12. Early days yet in Division Two, but Kings Langley seem the best supported so far, with an average of 49.

FA CUP PRELIMINARY ROUND - WEEKEND ROUND UP

Stansted got off to flying start on Friday evening against **St. Margaretsbury**, who surprisingly was beaten 4-1. Sam McCarthy notched a hat trick after just 36 minutes and took his personal tally to four in the second half - Bury's sole reply coming from Andy Birney.

Congratulations go to **Broxbourne Borough** and **Chalfont St. Peter** who both progressed to the next round. Broxbourne faced a tricky tie away to a resurgent **Bedford FC**, but came away with a 3-0 win, courtesy of a first hat trick from Sarfraz Pivano. Chalfont secured a hard fought 1-0 victory over Wessex league side **Hamble ASSC**, thanks to a Bradley Bubb strike after 35 minutes. Certainly not a game for the purists - it was back to the ball for the last quarter of an hour as Hamble strove for the equalizer - however poor delivery from numerous set pieces ensured Chalfont were not punished.

The game to watch on Saturday was undoubtedly the all Spartan South Midland tie between **Tring Athletic** and **Hertford Town**. A large crowd of 141 saw an exciting game, containing 8 goals and, although Tring were outplayed in the first half, they recovered well to deserve the draw, and the replay next Tuesday. Tring actually took the lead through Ali Thornley after just 10 minutes, but were then hit by a three-goal burst from Nicky Burt, Ryan Redford and Ross Collins, to give the Blues a 3-1 lead at the break. Tring hit back immediately after the restart with goals from Thornley and Darren Caseman (lessons learnt at Beaconsfield last week!), before Ian Wilkinson scored in the 60th minute to give them a 4-3 lead. Hertford were not finished however, and Ryan Wade made it 4-4 with just over 10 minutes remaining.

Welwyn Garden City and **Cockfosters** drew 1-1 at Hern Lane, and replay this Tuesday. City took the lead right on half time with an own goal from Ben Andreas, only for Gary Haycock to equalise for Cockfosters with some 20 minutes left.

Langford did well to hold Ryman One North **Potters Bar Town** to a 0-0 draw, and are another side that face a replay on Tuesday.

Oxhey Jets, unbeaten in the league to date, were surprisingly beaten 4-1 by Essex side **Burnham Ramblers**, who scored twice in each half. Jets sole reply came from Paul Turner on 50 minutes.

Two games were played on Sunday. **Hanwell Town** took the lead through Charlie Baverstock's 42nd minute goal in their away tie at old Spartan League rivals **Barkingside**, but the home side came up with two goals in the last 20 minutes to win the tie. **Beaconsfield SYCOB** chose to play their tie against **Hungerford Town** from the Hellenic League on Sunday because their tenants, Southern League Slough Town, had a 'home' FA Cup tie of their own on the Saturday against Fleet Town (which Slough lost 1-4) and that game took precedence over Beaconsfield's. Beaconsfield were rewarded with a crowd of over 100. The crowd, however, were not rewarded with a goal by either side, and so to a replay on Tuesday.

MANAGERIAL CHANGES

The first (as far as I know) Managerial change has taken place at **Amersham Town**, where Steve Bassnett has replaced Wayne Butfoy. Steve has stepped up from coach, and will be assisted by Dale Welch, who has joined from Ruislip Manor, where he was managing the Reserves. Manor's 1st XI manager last season, Shayne Chandler, has already joined Amersham on the playing staff.

All items of news, interest, tittle-tattle, etc. re your club, are very welcome.

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