

## MOLTEN SPARTAN SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE

### MIDWEEK NEWSLETTER No.41

*By Bill Scholes*

TUESDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> & WEDNESDAY 23<sup>rd</sup> APRIL 2008

#### PREMIER DIVISION ROUND UP

**Harefield United** ensured themselves of at least 5<sup>th</sup> place by beating **Aylesbury Vale** 3-1 on Tuesday. Jamie Houston gave the Hares an early lead, which Luke Willis doubled just before half time. Roy Manning gave Vale hope as he pulled one back 10 minutes after the break, but the hope was short lived as Willis scored his second a few minutes later to make the game safe. The battle for fourth place is now between Harefield and Hertford Town and will depend on the results of their two games on Saturday.

#### DIVISION ONE ROUND UP

As predicted Tuesday night's games were vital in the race for the Division title, and it now looks very much like congratulations are in order for **Kentish Town**. Their final game, away to **Cheshunt Reserves**, resulted in a 3-0 win thanks to goals from Lee Scott, David Dawson, and Jonathan Donoghue, and this has given them a final total of 75 points. The eagerly awaited clash between **Haringey Borough** and **Hoddesdon Town** resulted in stalemate – the 2-2 draw virtually handing the title to Kentish Town. All the goals came in the first half, with Hoddesdon twice leading through Peter Ulatowski and Andy Martin, but Boro pegged them back both times through Karl Lewis and Ry Hardy. The second promotion spot is still up for grabs, but Haringey must now be favourite with two games left – both at home – to Winslow Utd on Saturday, but they then may have to endure a long wait until Monday 5th May when they play Buckingham Athletic.

#### DIVISION TWO ROUND UP

Just the one game and **Crawley Green** confirmed their runners up spot as they beat **Kent Athletic** 1-0, with a goal after just 10 minutes from James Potter.

#### BERKS & BUCKS SENIOR TROPHY FINAL

Congratulations to **Beaconsfield SYCOB** who last night won the Trophy, beating **Newport Pagnell Town** 1-0 at Aylesbury Vale FC. The only goal of the game came in the 61<sup>st</sup> minute, from Stuart Swift. This is only the second time that Beaconsfield has won this trophy – the last time was in 2004, the same year that they also won the SSMFL Premier Division!

#### HUNTS PREMIER CUP – SEMI FINAL

**Biggleswade United** reached the final of the Hunts Premier Cup with a 1-0 win away at **Yaxley**. The all-important goal came from Mason Hilaire in the 22<sup>nd</sup> minute.

#### WYCOMBE SENIOR CUP – SEMI FINAL

Cup holders **Chalfont St. Peter** went out at the semi Final stage on Tuesday when they lost 2-1 to near neighbours **Chalfont Wasps**. In fact they will be very near neighbours next season as Wasps have negotiated a ground share deal with Chalfont in order for them to be promoted to the Premier Division of the Hellenic League..... Back to the game, and Ben Chadbone got Wasps off to a flying start with a powerful header after 6 minutes. Terrell Lewis equalised for Chalfont with an angled shot across the keeper 8 minutes before the break, and although they were playing the better

football, they could not turn possession into goals. Ex Beaconsfield and Berkhamsted player Keiron Webb came on a sub for the Wasps with 10 minutes to go and scored the winner.

#### ST. MARY'S CUP SEMI FINAL

**Tring Athletic** lost out to a harsh (sic) penalty decision after 30 minutes on Tuesday as they went down 1-0 to **Oxhey Jets**. Mark Ayres scored from the spot and, to add injury to Tring's wounds, the offender was dismissed, leaving Tring with 10 men for the last 60 minutes. Oxhey will now play Hemel Hempstead in the Final.

#### HINCHINBROOKE CUP QUARTER FINAL

No luck for **Langford** as they went down 2-0 to **Deeping Rangers** in this Quarter Final.

#### STUART LEAVY STEPS DOWN AT HAREFIELD UNITED

Stuart Leavy will call time on his eight-year career in charge of Harefield United following their final game of the season at home to St Margaretsbury this Saturday. Leavy, who was previously in charge of Chiltonian League side Martin Baker, took over from Vic Harris when the club started in the newly-formed Spartan South Midlands Football League, leading the team from Division One to the upper reaches of the Premier where this season he looks set to extend his fine record of never finishing out of the top five. Unfortunately he did not manage to take that final step by winning promotion although he came close on two occasions when he missed out by just one place.

#### WAS IT REALLY 25 YEARS AGO?

Harefield Utd held Banstead to a 2-2 draw in the Athenian League Cup Semi Final despite playing most of extra time with only 10 men, after **Stuart Leavy** was sent off for handling a shot on the line.

#### RUISLIP MANOR FC

Ground hoppers and programme collectors should be aware that Ruislip Manor play what could be their final game at Grosvenor Park on Saturday when they entertain Hanwell Town. They would prefer to remain at the ground they have called home since 1947 but are now faced with hefty rental fees from their new landlords for next season. Manor have every intention of continuing to operate and are currently pursuing alternative ground sharing arrangements should they find themselves unable to continue at Grosvenor Vale.

#### NOT RETIRED – JUST ON THE BUSES!

Luckily there was a 4<sup>th</sup> (Un) Official at the Langford v Brimsdown Rovers game last week when the referee went off injured after 30 minutes. An appeal to the crowd brought forth one Alan Banbury, who was on the 4<sup>th</sup> leg of a round trip from Milton Keynes – Biggleswade - and back using the new national Bus Pass facilities! Having never left the centre circle for ten years, running from the half way line to the bye line and back was a new experience.

**Bill Scholes 01494 713867**  
billscholes@hotmail.co.uk