

**MOLTEN SPARTAN SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE
LAST SATURDAY OF THE SEASON NEWSLETTER No.42**

By Bill Scholes

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There was a nice piece of symmetry on the hat trick front to end the League season – a total of three hat tricks, one from each division. All three were scored at home, and all three were part of the home team's total of four goals. Jamie Houliston was the Harefield hat trick hero, Amersham's Adamson Ajayi was the hero at Spratleys Meadow, and Blaine Cahill was the man at Aston Clinton.

CHAMPIONS ROLL OF HONOUR

Premier Division: Beaconsfield SYCOB
Division One: Kentish Town
Division Two: Kings Langley

Reserve Div One: Hertford Town
Reserve Div Two East: Broxbourne Boro V&E
Reserve Div Two West: Holmer Green

PREMIER DIVISION ROUND UP

Champions **Beaconsfield SYCOB** signed off their 2007/08 league campaign with a 1-0 win away at **Cockfosters** – a late goal from Anthony Wright securing the victory. **Biggleswade Town** rounded off an excellent season, culminating in a 3rd place finish, with a comprehensive 5-0 victory over **Tring Athletic** in what they surely hope will their last game at their temporary Bedford FC home, before moving to their palatial new surroundings back in Biggleswade. Dan Heron and Bradley Harrison put the Waders two up at half time, and Jack Weedon, Adam Bensaud and Seal Ohene completed the scoring in the second half. Another 18 goals would have seen Biggleswade pip **Chalfont St. Peter** for second place, the latter, fielding a slightly depleted side, losing 4-0 away at **Hertford Town** in their last game. The Blues goals were scored by Lee Roberts and Ryan Wade in the first half, and Shaun Crossley and Ricky Marsh in the second and the win enabled Hertford to secure 4th place – just one point in front of **Harefield United**. The Hares did their job in winning 4-1 at home to **St. Margaretsbury** to enable departing manager Stuart Leavy to leave on a victorious note, a hat trick in seven minutes either side of half time helping them on their way. **Hanwell Town** also gave manager Chris Boothe a winning send off as they defeated **Ruislip Manor** 2-1 in what could be Manor's last game at Grosvenor Vale. Hanwell's scorers were Mark Gallagher and Michael Chukuroah whilst Anthony Baker replied for the Manor. **Welwyn Garden City** saved their best away win of the season for the last game as they returned from **London Colney** with a 5-1 win, thanks to a brace from Jake Parratt, and singles from Craig Tompkins, Azeez Yousuff and Jason Williams. **Broxbourne Borough** completed their tempestuous season with a 2-0 win away at **Langford**, whilst a solitary James Armstrong goal was enough to ensure a 1-0 win for **Leverstock Green** over visitors **Oxhey Jets**. **Brimsdown Rovers'** Michael Perry went from hero to zero in just less than 15 minutes in their home game with **Holmer Green** when he forced home a corner just after the break to give the home side the lead. Shortly afterwards he and the referee had a disagreement and he departed the scene, leaving Rovers to battle on with 10 men. Holmer fought valiantly for the equaliser, but had to wait until a minute of added on time before it arrived, courtesy of Danny Craggs. A goal from Ashley Aimakho after 67 minutes was enough for **Colney Heath** to overcome **Kingsbury London Tigers**, whilst **Biggleswade United** and **Aylesbury Vale** settled for a 1-1 draw in the sunshine.

DIVISION ONE ROUND UP

Having completed their fixtures, **Kentish Town** had to watch and wait to see whether **Haringey Borough** could win their last two games, whilst at the same time improving their goal difference by 12 or more. Neither happened as **Haringey** could only draw at home, thus confirming **Kentish Town** as **Division One** champions, an excellent achievement for a club that was only formed in 1994, and have only been members of the SSMFL for 5 years.

Haringey were indeed lucky to achieve a draw as they had to rely on a penalty from Ry Hardy in the last minute to gain a share of the points in their 2-2 draw with **Winslow United**. The visitors twice took the lead but **Haringey** fought back on both occasions and gained the point that confirmed them as runners up with one game remaining. **Hoddesdon Town** could have made the week's wait a very nervous one, but their challenge evaporated in the warm sunshine at **Amersham Town** and they will have to be content with third spot. When the sun is out on a warm April afternoon, there is no better place to watch football than from the stand at Amersham, looking out beyond the football pitch to the rolling green hills of the Chilterns, watched over by Shardeloes - a white stuccoed Corinthian pillared 350 year country house – once described by Edmund Burke as “a perfect specimen of an elegant English residence.” Perhaps mesmerised by the beauty of their surroundings, **Hoddesdon** seemed to find it difficult to raise their game against a side that were clearly looking to end the season on a high. Amersham's lively and pacey forwards were always that bit sharper than their opposite numbers and they caused the **Hoddesdon** defence problems all afternoon – the one honourable exception being Damian Martin who played a true captain's game in exhorting his team on, he even popped up to score his team's first goal, but to no avail. Adamson Ajayi notched his first hat trick for Amersham, and sub Roy Byron scored a screamer just after coming on as the home side were well worth their 4-2 victory. Mention must be made of the referee Shaun Cavanagh, who had an excellent game – unobtrusive, no cards, but always there with a quip to diffuse any potential flashpoints. **Stony Stratford Town** often blew hot and cold during the season, but finished strongly with a 3-0 win over **Harpenden Town**, goals from Marc Redsull, Ben Hill and Keith Williams, to clinch fourth place just ahead of **Royston Town**, who won 2-0 away at **Sun Postal Sports**, thanks to strikes from Ryan Lockett and Ashley Townsend. In the penultimate game of the season for both **Buckingham Athletic** and **New Bradwell St. Peter** a good game was played in bright warm sunshine at Stratford Fields. This was not a typical end of the season game and whilst neither side was playing for promotion or to avoid relegation, local pride was at stake. In a fairly even first half the nearest anyone came to scoring was when Bradwell saw their shot cleared off the Buckingham goal line on 34 minutes. Both teams played with vigour but the half ended goalless. The second half was more of the same tempo and effort and Greg Tite missed a great chance for Bradwell as he blazed a shot over the bar when well placed to score. Buckingham also had their chances and were unlucky to see two efforts cleared of the Peters goal line. As the heat of the afternoon told on the players the game slowed and ended in a draw – which was probably the right result on the day. **Amphill Town** warmed up for their Divisional Cup Final with a 5-0 roasting of **Bedford**. A brace from Craig Townsend and singles from Christian Lester, Martin Wells and Anthony Wright got the party going early. Iain Temple gave **Brache Sparta** the lead in their game with **Cheshunt Reserves**, but Milo Mahon equalised shortly afterwards to make the final score 1-1.

DIVISION TWO ROUND UP

With the top two places sorted, all the excitement centred on the battle for third place. **The 61 FC** needed a victory to secure third spot over AFC Dunstable, and they duly obliged with a 3-2 home win over local rivals **Kent Athletic**. Two goals to the good at the break thanks to Chris Mapp and Aaron Lewis, they went further ahead with Lewis's second just after the break, but then had to endure a nervy last 20 minutes as Kent pulled two back thanks to Ross Scott and Danny Sutherland. Champions **Kings Langley** were held to a 0-0 draw at home to **Pitstone & Ivinghoe**, whilst second placed **Crawley Green** finished their successful campaign with a 3-0 away win at **Caddington**. A hat trick from Blaine Cahill helped **Aston Clinton** to a 4-2 victory over **Tring Corinthians**, a result

that ensured Aston Clinton of 5th spot. **Padbury United** and **Mursley United** fought out a 1-1 draw whilst the battle of the bottom two clubs resulted in a 4-1 win for **Old Bradwell United**, leaving **Markyate** in the wooden spoon position this season.

HANWELL TOWN SEEK NEW MANAGER

Hanwell Town's manager, Chris Boothe, resigned after their final game of the season against Ruislip Manor. Chris took over the managerial reigns in February 2007 and the club would like to record their appreciation for his enormous commitment to the club during his period in charge. The club will begin their search for a new manager with immediate effect.

HERTFORD TOWN SEEK NEW CHAIRMAN

Mick Clarke has resigned as chairman of Molten Spartan South Midlands League club Hertford Town after only one season in the hot-seat at Hertingfordbury Park, citing pressure of work as his reason for quitting. He still intends to remain a sponsor, however, which is some consolation for the club. Vice-chairman Bob Brown looks like finding himself back holding the keys for a third time unless a new chairman steps forward. He has twice before had to become acting chairman, but says that he has no ambition to take the job on permanently. "We need someone who is able to put in some finance, so that we can compete with the top teams in the Spartan South Midlands Premier Division. "We have finished in high positions in both of our seasons in this friendly league, but the club wants to get back to the Ryman League, where we spent over thirty years, and sooner rather than later. "We manage to generate the cash to pay our bills, but it needs someone willing to stump up the cash for a playing budget sufficient to win the league. "We are grateful to Mick, as we were to his predecessor Mark Bohm for giving us two good seasons. It is galling to just miss out twice, but the manager and squad are raring to give it another go, if the right backing can be found."

Many thanks to our contributors over the season – there will be one more Newsletter next week to tie up all the Cup Final results. Any items of interest; please send to billscholes@hotmail.co.uk Bill Scholes 01494 713867