

## MOLTEN SPARTAN SOUTH MIDLANDS FOOTBALL LEAGUE NEWSLETTER No. 8

By **Bill Scholes**

*Congratulations to all 8 hat trick heroes this week, all in Divisions One and Two. Three players hit the net on four occasions – Marc Redsull of Stony Stratford Town, Neil Roberts of Aston Clinton, and Ryan Haynes of Risborough Rangers. The other 5 hotshots were Liam Farrell for Cheshunt Reserves, Jonathon Donoghue for Kentish Town, Greg Tite for New Bradwell St. Peter, James McCarthy for AFC Dunstable and Iain Pink for The 61 FC (Luton).*

### FA CUP - SECOND QUALIFYING ROUND

Commiserations to **Chalfont St. Peter**, our last remaining club in this world famous competition, who suffered last minute heartbreak as they went down 2-1 away to **Dulwich Hamlet**, from Ryman Division One South. In front of a crowd of 215, Chalfont took the game to their more illustrious opponents, but possibly the turning point of the game came when Terrell Lewis, who was creating havoc in the Dulwich defence, was taken off with a suspected broken toe. The famous Navy blue and Pink shirts took the lead through Shaun Beveney after 24 minutes, but try as they might, Chalfont could not summon up the deserved equaliser until sub Ryan Welch gave the Saints hope of a replay with his 85<sup>th</sup> minute goal. However in the 90<sup>th</sup> minute, Hamlet's full back Steve May popped up to break Chalfont's hearts with the last gasp winner. Although disappointed, Chalfont's Chairman Denis Mair was very proud to accept the post match plaudits of both the Dulwich and Match officials, neither of who thought the Saints deserved to lose.

### PREMIER DIVISION ROUND UP – SAT 29 SEPTEMBER

As we move into October, it will take a brave man to correctly predict the eventual winner of the Premier Division, as the number of games played to date does vary, largely as a result of FA Cup and Vase matches. At the moment, only 4 teams have played 10 games, and one of these, Harefield United sit at the top with 22 points. However, any of the next 7 clubs, if they win their games in hand, could be up with the leaders.

**Harefield United** were held to 2-2 draw away to mid table **Oxhey Jets** and, although they took an early lead through Michael Livsey, the Jets took off after the break and raced into a 2-1 lead with goals from Lee Grace and Tim O'Mara, and it took a late equaliser from Sean Sonner to gain a share of the points. **Hanwell Town** are beginning to recover from their slow start, and moved up into third place with a 3-1 away win at **Colney Heath**. The home side took the lead through Scott Lacey after 13 minutes, only for livewire front-runner Charlie Baverstock to equalise 4 minutes later. Warren Williams gave Town the lead early in the second half, but it was not until the third minute of added on time that Leon Cover added the third. Erstwhile leaders **Aylesbury Vale** kept up the pressure with a 3-0 home win against **Kingsbury London Tigers** – a first half brace from Luke Melisi and a second half goal from Carl Clay securing all three points. **Biggleswade Town** reiterated their title credentials with an excellent 4-1 win away to early favourites **Leverstock Green**, who completed a miserable September without a league win in 5 attempts. Jamie Steele and Dan Heron got the Waders off to a flying start with two goals in the first 10 minutes, but Mickey Swaysland converted a cross from Steve Flain in the 18<sup>th</sup> minute to reduce the deficit. Steele scored his second just after the half hour to give the visitors a 3-1 lead at the break, and had the chance to make it three on the 79<sup>th</sup> minute, but put his penalty straight at keeper Graham Milner. Scott Field did get the fourth a few minutes later with a rasping volley from the edge of the box. **Beaconsfield SYCOB** kept in touch with the leaders with a 2-1 win at home to **Langford**, although the visitors held a 1-0 lead thanks to Marc Barnes up to the 67<sup>th</sup> minute. Centre back Dan West got the equaliser and a minute later striker Michael Currie clinched all three points. **Ruislip Manor** were bitterly disappointed only to get a point from their away trip to **Tring Athletic**, as they dominated the game for long periods, particularly in the first half. Manor did not look like a side with just the one away win to their credit,

and gave an early warning of their intentions when J. Christian hit a rocket against the post. A cracking shot from Andy Mayhill gave Manor the lead after 19 minutes, and a few minutes later the impressive Aaron McLeish doubled the lead with another powerful shot. The lively McLeish caused Tring's defence numerous problems, and if it had not been for the equally impressive Paul Aldridge at the centre of the defence, the game could have gone beyond the home side. Although a better performance in the second half from Tring always gave them hope, they didn't really look like scoring from open play, and it took two penalties (both converted by Greg Shaw,) the second in the dying seconds of the game to give them a share of the points, and leave the Manor to wonder how they didn't end up with all three. **Welwyn Garden City** moved out of the bottom three with a 2-1 away win at **Biggleswade United**. Matt Wardle gave the Citizens a very early lead, which they held until Robbie O'Dell equalised in the 52<sup>nd</sup> minute, but ex London Colney forward David "Bullet" Parkinson made sure of all three points after 72 minutes. A Simon Williams goal after 21 minutes saw **Holmer Green** edge to a 1-0 victory over bottom club **London Colney**, whilst **Cockfosters** and **Broxbourne Borough** shared the spoils in a 1-1 draw, both goals coming in the space of three minutes.

### DIVISION ONE ROUND UP

Game of the day was at **Bedford**, where the home side regained the leadership of Division One with a 1-0 win at home to last weeks leaders **Brache Sparta**, who dropped back to fourth place. The only goal of the game came from the penalty spot after 79 minutes, Graham Randall converting the kick. **Haringey Borough** moved up to second place by virtue of their 2-1 win at home to **Amptill Town**. Matty Quinn's second half equaliser nullified Adeniyi Adedeji's first half strike for Boro, but Jamaal Duncan made sure of the win in the 79<sup>th</sup> minute. **Stony Stratford Town** jumped a place to third with the day's biggest win – a 7-0 victory away to **Cranfield United**. Marc Redsull scored four times, with the other goals coming from Adam Castagnetti, David Holloway and Barry Bellhouse. **Cheshunt Reserves** had the days second best win, scoring five without reply at home to **Bedford Town Reserves**. **Royston Town** and **Harpenden Town**, who meet this Saturday in the FA Vase, both lost – Royston 2-1 away to **Arlesey Athletic** and Harpenden went down 3-0 away to **Sport London e Benfica**. **New Bradwell St. Peter** had Greg Tite to thank for all three goals in their 3-2 away win at **Sun Postal Sports**.

### DIVISION TWO ROUND UP

All change at the top of Division Two, as **Kings Langley** leapfrogged over previous leaders Kent Athletic, by dint of their 4-2 away win at **Markyate**. The visitors raced into a 4-goal lead within the first 20 minutes, with a brace from Lewis Pritchard and singletons from Andy Cracknell and Andy Cooper, but the homesters reduced the deficit through Ross O'Kane and John Richardson. **Kent Athletic** were beaten 5-3 by **Aston Clinton** in an entertaining match of 8 goals. A hat trick in the first 25 minutes from Neil Roberts gave Aston Clinton a 3-0 lead, but two goals in three minutes from Steve Justin and Felix Kyermeh reduced the deficit before half time. A fourth from Neil Roberts and one from Blaine Cahill took the lead back to 5-2, before Kyermeh scored his sides third with just 5 minutes remaining. **AFC Dunstable** moved up a place to third with a 4-1 win away at **Padbury United**, a hat trick from James McCarthy helping them on their way, whilst **Crawley Green** also moved up a place following their 2-0 at **Pitstone & Ivinghoe**. **Tring Corinthians**, who were in third spot, suffered a hefty 5-1 home reverse to **Mursley United**, and slipped back a couple of places.

### MOLTEN TEAM OF THE MONTH – AUGUST

Congratulations to Oxhey Jets who were awarded the Team of the Month for August 07. The club were presented with the Molten Golden Ball by League president Brian Smith before their 2-2 draw at home to Harefield United.

## SPECIAL MOMENTS

At the same game above, Oxhey Jets club captain Colin Jenkins was presented with a tankard to mark his 500<sup>th</sup> senior game for the club.

Congratulations also to Scott Lacey, who scored his 100<sup>th</sup> goal for his club, Colney Heath, on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> September in their 1-0 home win against Tring Athletic. It was a penalty, but, hey.... they all count!

## JUST THINK...MORE THAN 5,000 SPECIAL ONES

You may well have seen press reports / items over the last few months about a new scheme offering football fans the chance to run their own club via the internet. Biggleswade United have decided that they could be the first club to benefit from this scheme, and last week they issued the following press release:

### [www.myBUFC.com](http://www.myBUFC.com) – Football club for sale at £23.50

Biggleswade United FC are bidding to be the first English Football club to be managed entirely by its online membership – from weekly team selection to key spending decisions.

Ever cursed the manager for fielding the wrong players?

Wished that the opposition's striker could play for your team?

Thought that the ground could do with improving?

Ever thought you could do better than the board if only you had the chance?

Well now you have the chance – for less than the cost of a football shirt!

Biggleswade United FC ([www.biggleswadeunited.co.uk](http://www.biggleswadeunited.co.uk)) are giving the opportunity to football fans all over the World to have a say in every aspect of running and growing the well established grass roots club.

Once the trigger level of 5000 members is achieved, control of the club's finances, business activities and, most importantly, squad, will be handed over to our online collective wisdom.

The site ([www.mybufc.com](http://www.mybufc.com)) will provide match, scouting and opposition reports, forums, player profiles and news for members to research and discuss plans whilst democratic e voting will pass the motions that the club will act upon.

The membership will also be the team manager and, for every game, provide the team coach with formation, team tactics and player selection.

The target for the club, and the challenge to members, is to take the team to the Blue Square Premier league within 5 years. A tough but achievable goal for a club with plenty of history and even more potential.

The club has been run under charitable status for many years and membership to myBUFC.com provides an equal vote on each and every decision including areas such as player signings, ground improvements, youth team investments, training facilities, sponsorship, marketing and match coverage.

£19 raised from each membership fee goes straight into club funds to be spent with existing income on anything and everything that the "collective wisdom" chooses, the balance going towards the development of the framework to support a collaborative, online e-democracy group.

"The site has only been online for 24 hours and the response has been terrific - at this rate, we'll be running the club live within a few short weeks" says Jason Higgins, creator of myBUFC.com "It looks like there are more budding Arsene Wengers and Alex Fergusons interested in growing a small, ambitious club out there than anyone could have predicted".

"It's a big leap of faith for a small club like Biggleswade United but having a large group of enthusiastic, talented and creative individuals as managers could be just what is needed to take the club to the next level and beyond".

Full marks to the Biggleswade Utd committee for an extremely interesting initiative, and one that we will watch with interest over the course of the next few months. I wonder what would happen when

all, say, 5,000 Internet managers disagree with the referee's decision – do they all get banished to the virtual stand?

Or will it be a real stand.....Exciting times are ahead for United after a meeting with Biggleswade Town Council and neighbours Biggleswade Cricket Club who have given their support for United's proposals for upgrading their playing facilities in order to meet ground requirements for Level 4 and 5 of the Pyramid. The improvements will see the erection of 2.4 metre perimeter panels, which will mean the ground, will be fully enclosed with access through two turnstiles, which will also be installed. In addition, a stand comprising of 260 seats will replace the hedgerow and will span the full length of the cricket ground side. The team of architects and structural engineers who have been commissioned by the club to manage the project has completed high spec plans. Discussions have been had with the FA's Regional Football Foundation Funding representative and the next stage will be the submission of a formal planning application to the local council. United are looking to complete the project in time for the start of the 2008/2009 season.

## MORE LIGHT ON THE SUBJECT

Welcome news from the FA this week for clubs at Step 6 and below who have obtained planning permission for floodlights, but are struggling to find the money to pay for them. The FA National Sports Centre Trust, in a bid to get more clubs applying for promotion, has launched a new scheme. Grants of between £10,000 and £15,000 will be made available, and will be of particular importance to those clubs in SSMFL Division Two who find themselves in this position.

## MAD DOG AT HOLMER GREEN!

Holmer Green manager Jason Weinrabe and his players received a major boost last Thursday when Martin Allen, the ex Brentford, MK Dons and Leicester City manager turned up to take a two-hour training session. Allen made the offer to Jason to take training after proudly watching his son George take the Man of the Match award last Tuesday in Holmer's narrow 3-2 defeat at Harefield. Young George, who has progressed through the Holmer youth ranks over the last couple of years, is certainly not a chip off the old block – being a talented and skilful wide player. Father Martin has not ruled out further sessions, dependent on his future employment.

## FA VASE

Sun Postal Sports will be our 18<sup>th</sup> club in the FA Vase this weekend, as they have been reinstated, following the news that Sawbridgeworth played two players under false names in their 2-1 victory last week. Sawbridgeworth have admitted the offence, and have been punished with a £500 fine and a ban from next season's FA Cup and Vase competitions. One of the ineligible players was serving a Herts FA suspension, but it transpires that the other was actually registered and could have played under his own name! Older readers will remember Waltham Abbey committing a similar offence a few years ago – they were banned from all FA Competitions for 3 years. Sun Postal have been awarded the £600 prize money from the game, and will now face Hanwell Town in the next round this Saturday.

In closing we would like to send best wishes to all of our 18 clubs competing in the FA Vase this Saturday. With the above news, there are now 4 all Spartan South Midlands clashes, which does mean we are assured of at least 4 clubs in the next round!

My thanks to all contributors – please keep sending news / views and items of interest to:

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