

MOLTEN SPORTS SPARTAN SOUTH MIDLANDS FOOTBALL LEAGUE

NEWSLETTER No. 1

By **Bill Scholes**

Up to Wed 20th August

There I was, dozing in my deckchair at Hove, when I received an urgent phone call from Mr Bean – where's the first newsletter? Holy moly, I said, football – the County Championship is only three quarters of the way through and Bucks still have to play Norfolk at home! Still the weather on the opening Saturday was certainly more akin to football watching than cricket watching, so I suppose I had better start to get the old brain into football mode again. I did allude to it at the end of last season, but one thing I will miss about watching cricket is the lack of industrial language that seems almost obligatory from many football spectators – particularly at non league grounds - not to mention yer actual players. I look forward to the FA "Respect" campaign with interest.

HAT TRICK HEROES

There have been a total of 11 hat tricks scored in the first couple of weeks of the season. Three of these were in the FA Cup(I guess that's something you can always tell your grandchildren!) – Neil Roberts for Aylesbury Vale, Tim O'Mara for Oxhey Jets and Mark Burfoot for Tring Athletic, whilst Craig Hammond has continued where he left off last season with an early 3 goals for Royston Town in the Herts Charity Shield. The hat tricks in the League have come from Chris Hill of Winslow, Felix Kyeremeh and Jack Downes from AFC Dunstable, Lewis Pritchard of Kings Langley and Rohan Derosa from Markyate, but pride of place so far goes to Lawrence Bunker of Pitstone & Ivinghoe- another continuing his good form from last season- who scored two hat tricks in the space of 4 days.

A WARM WELCOME TO OUR 7 NEW CLUBS

Seven new clubs will be competing in the Spartan South Midlands League in Season 2008-9 so you can look forward to visiting a variety of new grounds in the coming season. Winners of the Premier League, **Beaconsfield SYCOB**, have left us as they have regained their Southern League status. Coming in the other direction are **Berkhamsted Town**, who will play in a 22-club Premier League next season. **Kentish Town** and **Haringey Borough** have been promoted; **London Colney** and **Ruislip Manor** relegated. **Hatfield Town**, winners of the Herts County League, have been admitted to Division 1 and will ground share with Welwyn Garden City. This division will accommodate 21 clubs including two promoted from Division Two, **Kings Langley** and **Crawley Green**. Division Two has also been increased in size to 18 clubs including five newcomers: **Bletchley Town**, **Bucks Student Union** (from Chalfont St Giles), **Hadley**, **MK Wanderers** and **Wodson Park** (from Ware).

FA CUP –EXTRA PRELIMINARY ROUND

A mixed bag of results in the Extra Prelim Round for SSMFL sides. We started with a total of 21 clubs, and 11 will definitely go through to the next round, with 1 possible to come. Most goals in a game came at the Grass Roots Stadium, where **Tring Ath** entertained near neighbours **Berkhampstead**. A large crowd of 163 certainly got value for money as 8 goals rattled in, with Mark Burfoot's first hat trick for Tring being decisive in their eventual 5-3

victory. Not far down the road, an action packed game at **Chalfont St. Peter** saw the home side hang on for a 4-3 win against **Ardley Utd** from the Hellenic League, although they did endeavour to snatch defeat from the jaws of victory. Ardley had two nailed on penalty shouts in the first half, which if given could have well produced a different result, but a well taken goal from Barry Brosnan gave the Saints a one goal lead at half time. A quick double from the effervescent Danny Hughes put Chalfont 3-0 up but with just 8 minutes left Ardley pulled one back. However a minute later a moment of aberration from the Ardley keeper who for reasons best known only to himself decided to try and tackle the Chalfont winger right by the corner flag. Not surprisingly he lost the ball, which was crossed to allow Charlie Strutton the easiest of finishes. Ardley quickly added another two goals, but couldn't find the equaliser, and were left to rue their keeper's lapse. The most comprehensive victory came from **Oxhey Jets** who gave fellow SSMFL side **Hertford Town** their worst defeat for two years as they ran out 5-0 winners, thanks in part to a Tim O'Mara hat trick. **Aylesbury Vale's** Neil Roberts also scored a hat trick as his team overcame **Highworth Town** 4-2 aet – the scores being level at 1-1 after 90 minutes. A double for Paul Haynes gave **Harefield Utd** a 2-1 win away at Bowers & Pitsea, whilst **Biggleswade Utd** beat **Tokington Manor** (that's Ruislip Manor in old money) 3-2 away - the game being played at Yeading FC. **Langford** travelled up the motorway to **Rothwell Corinthians**, but left it very late before returning with a 3-2 win. The first half was dominated by Langford but they could not get a shot on target until a right wing cross was deflected by a defender into the net on 20 minutes to put them ahead. Rothwell did not really threaten, but a rare attack saw them draw level on 32 minutes when Michael Coles scored from close range. The second half continued the pattern of the first, but it was again against the run of play that Rothwell scored their second goal as Coles rose to head the ball home on 69 minutes. Indeed, Langford had their keeper to thank for not going further behind as he saved a one on one effort from a Rothwell forward. Just when it looked all over for Langford they equalised just into injury time when David Coles shot on the turn from close range. As Langford Secretary Frank Woodward was arranging details for the replay, Alex Green bundled in the winning goal deep into injury time to steal the tie. **Broxbourne Boro** also travelled up to Northamptonshire and came back with a 2-0 win in their game against **Long Buckby**, whilst **Amptill Town**, from Div One, surprised their Premier Division hosts **Cockfosters** with a 1-0 win, courtesy of a Tom Lynch goal ten minutes from the end. **Hanwell Town** edged through 3-2 against **Wootton Blue Cross**, with a Blaise O'Brien penalty proving decisive. A crowd of 74 were attracted to **London Colney** by the lure of the TV camera's, and they saw Colney recover from losing a first minute goal to **Sporting Bengal Utd** to earn a 1-1 draw, and a replay, which unfortunately they lost 1-0 on Wednesday. Also in front of the camera's, and a crowd of 99, were **Royston Town** who drew 1-1 away at **Wembley**. The replay on Tuesday night saw over 200 people packed into Garden Walk to see the Crows demolish their opponents 4-0. Connor De Lacy got the ball rolling putting the Crows 1-0 up on 6 minutes and 8 minutes later Ryan Lockett doubled the lead with a long range effort. In the second half Craig Hammond produced the goal of the game with his top class scissor volley hitting the top right hand corner of the net from Luke Robins's cross. Hammond then added the final goal with a glancing header again from a Robins cross to round off a superb performance. **Kentish Town** fulfilled their Chairman's dream by appearing in the FA Cup just 14 years after being formed, and a crowd of 179 at their home ground on Sunday saw them draw 1-1 with **Wellingborough Town**. Sadly they lost 2-0 in the replay on Tuesday night. **Brimsdon Rovers** were another side who played on Sunday and attracted a huge crowd of 239, but

unfortunately could not make home advantage pay against Div One side **Hatfield Town**. Sunday also turned out to be a good day for **Kingsbury London Tigers** who beat Eton Manor 1-0.

PREMIER DIVISION

Early days yet, but after just two games only three sides are left with 100% records. All three have scored 6 goals a piece, but **Harefield Utd** sit on top having only conceded one goal. The Hares opened their season with a 3-1 win over **Biggleswade Town**, and followed that up by winning 3-0 away at **Berkhampstead**, who themselves had opened their account in the SSMFL with a 5-2 win away at **Holmer Green**. **Biggleswade Town** played their very first league game on their new ground, the Carlsberg Stadium, last Wednesday, in front of a crowd of 135 and celebrated with a 1-0 win over **Hertford Town**- Glen Lamacraft scoring the historic goal. (If only Carlsberg made Football grounds) **Langford** also have two wins under their belt – a 4-1 win away at **Colney Heath** followed by a 2-1 home win against **Biggleswade Utd**. **Aylesbury Vale** are the third club with two wins, both at home - firstly beating **Cockfosters** 2-1 and they followed that up with an excellent 4-2 against last year's runners up **Chalfont St.Peter**.

DIVISION ONE

Four clubs have unblemished records to date. **Stony Stratford Town**, who just dropped away at the end of last season have started like a train and gone straight to the top, with 3 wins out of three. They started with a 2-0 win over Hoddesdon Town, beat Buckingham Athletic 3-0 at home and then overwhelmed Arlesey Athletic 6-1. Newly promoted **Kings Langley** also have a 100% record so far, with wins over Arlesey Athletic, Tokyngton Manor and New Bradwell St. Peter. **Bedford Town Reserves** have won all of their three games, , beating London Colney, Cranfield Utd and Sun Postal Sports, whilst **Royston Town** beat Harpenden Town and Hoddesdon Town in their two games played. Respect was clearly not in evidence on the first day of the season on a rainy day in **Buckingham**, as **Athletic** entertained new boys **Hatfield Town** in an entertaining and explosive match at Stratford Fields. In an even first half with both sides have good chances to score, it was Buckingham that broke the deadlock on 44 minutes when Scott Latham swept home from close range following a free kick. The second half saw the home team dominate as Hatfield ran out of steam but a rare attack saw them draw level. A free kick on the edge of the home penalty area was powerfully struck home, off a post, by Trevor Golder. This awoke Hatfield and they pushed for the winner. However all the good work of both sides was undone in a silly five minutes which saw a melee of players fighting with one another on the halfway line. Once order was restored, the Referee sent off four players - two from each side. The remaining ten minutes was played out in peace and the match petered out into a 1-1 draw.

DIVISION TWO

An interesting season is in prospect with 5 new clubs coming into the mix., and more than one or two having ambitions of promotion up to Division One. Of the new clubs, both of the Milton Keynes sides, **MK Wanderers** and **Bletchley Town** have not got off to the best of starts, losing their first three games, whilst **Wodson Park** won their first two games, but could only manage a 1-1 draw with Totternhoe on Wednesday evening.. **Bucks Student Union** attracted a goodly number of groundhoppers for their first home game against Totternhoe. On

a filthy afternoon, the visiting spectators must have thought they had gone to groundhopper heaven as not only were they able to buy a programme, but there was more than adequate shelter from the elements , and hot food and delightful bar staff , of the female variety, in the clubhouse. (I was going to say cracking bar maids, but that's probably not PC !) Well worth a visit ! And they won 2-0. **AFC Dunstable** are the early front runners, winning four games out of four, including Wednesday nights 5-2 win over local rivals Kent Athletic, whilst **Padbury** have won three out of three. The surprise package to date is **Markyate**, who have already amassed 6 points – one more than they achieved in total last season!

COCKFOSTERS ARE SOUTH MIDLANDS CUP WINNERS -2007 /08

Molten Spartan South Midlands League Premier Division club Cockfosters have been awarded the South Midlands Floodlit Cup (2007/08) in the most unsatisfactory of circumstances after prospective finalists Saffron Walden Town stated they were unwilling to fulfil the fixture. Having battled through to last season's final with wins against Sawbridgeworth Town, Eynesbury Rovers and Pottun United, the Reds were looking forward to a clash with Ridgeons League Saffron Walden and the chance to cap their season with senior silverware. However, fixture congestion forced the game to be held over to this season. A date of August 5th was put forward but Saffron Walden were not able to agree the date. Despite the anti-climactic nature of their win, Cockfosters are, nonetheless, South Midlands Floodlit cup champions 2007/08.

I THINK IT'S A BIT TOO LATE FOR THE OLYMPICS, BILL !

New personal best for Referee's Association Treasurer at fitness test

On 3rd August at the third of four SSMFL fitness tests, the Association's own Bill Hamilton confounded all those watching with a record time of 13 minutes 18 seconds for the 2400 metres. Bill actually sprinted the final 150 metres in approximately 35 seconds. He also completed both 50 metre sprints in 7 seconds. This marked a personal best, as last year, Bill completed this distance in 13 minutes 25 seconds. I can't wait to see Bill scorching up and down the pitch in his new black skin tight lycra kit!

NEW SECRETARY FOR SSMFL REFEREE'S ASSOCIATION

Ex SSMFL Ref's Secretary Dave Carman takes the reins

The Association is delighted to announce that Dave Carman has agreed to take on the role of Association Secretary for the coming season. The position had been left vacant after the tragic and untimely passing of the long serving Carl Couzens earlier this year. Dave will without doubt show the same amount of dedication, willingness to help others and desire to further the Association and standing of SSMFL referees that Carl had over so many years. We all wish Dave the best for the future.

MORE ACCLAIM FOR CHALFONT PROGRAMME

Chalfont St.Peter's programme came 16th nationally in the Annual Soccer Club Swap Shop awards, and was also voted best programme in the SSMFL Premier Division. Well done to Editor Stuart Latham.

JOINT VENTURE BETWEEN AMERSHAM TOWN AND CHESHAM UTD
Amersham Town have reached a mutually beneficial agreement to share resources for the

2008/09 season with local Southern league club Chesham Utd. With Aylesbury United once again groundsharing at The Meadow, there was a need to reduce the number of games taking place on the pitch at Chesham. The Chesham United Football Club Youth, Ladies and Academy teams will play most of their home matches at Amersham Town's Spratley Meadow. In the absence of a Chesham Reserve team next season, United will make players available for either first team or reserve football at Amersham, giving United players not in the first team the opportunity to participate in regular competitive football whilst providing the Amersham's Spartan League side with players to strengthen their teams where required. The two clubs will enter a team into the Suburban League, which is designed to provide a stepping stone for the best players from Amersham and Chesham, and will give regular senior football to the best of the youth talent in both clubs.

RUISLIP MANOR F.C. – R.I.P. THE END OF AN ERA

For the first time in over sixty years, Ruislip Manor will not take to the football field in August 2008. The club's troubles have been well documented both locally and nationally and, perhaps with inevitable consequence, the nadir has finally been reached. Ostensibly, this much-loved club and integral facet of the local community is no more. Evicted from its Grosvenor Vale headquarters at the end of last season, the club has been transformed beyond recognition in the summer months. Most unsettling for the majority of the club's followers was the name change, forced through with minimal consultation and to take effect immediately this season. It was widely agreed that, in order to reflect the community that had effectively rescued the club in February, there should be some alteration or addition to the name of Ruislip Manor FC. Two possible alternatives – Ruislip Manor & Brent FC and Ruislip Manor & Tokyngton FC – were endorsed at separate meetings, but however in the end the new club emerged as 'Tokyngton Manor FC'. The omission of the geographical location of Ruislip Manor is deeply upsetting to the number of loyal Ruislip Manor fans with the small Wembley district of 'Tokyngton' instead granted undue prominence at the front of the name.

Chris Thomas – Loyal (ex) Ruislip Manor Programme Editor

TOKYNGTON MANOR - WHERE IS IT?

Tokyngton is in eastern Wembley, south of the Chiltern Railway line. Tokyngton means 'the farm of the sons of Toca'. In the medieval times it was of the most populated parts of Harrow parish. The name is first mentioned in 1171. In the next century it had a chapel and a vicar. A manor house belonging to the Barnvilles and later to the Bellamy family was built around 1500. By the 16th Tokyngton Manor was a farm owned by the Page family, important Wembley landowners. Over centuries Tokyngton developed from a farm to a small village standing amongst farmland, first arable, then followed by animal farming in the 19th century. The coming of railways and bus services to Wembley encourage housing development in the area. In the beginning of the 20th century the Oakington Manor Estate was developed for 'high-class residences'. Tokyngton had a temporary church from 1926 and a permanent one from 1933. During the Second World War Tokyngton had its share of bombing. One of the first buildings destroyed was Tokyngton Manor House, which was blown up in an ARP exercise in 1939. – *no chance of using that for the Clubhouse then!* Tokyngton has been developed as a quite residential area, with many council estates. A Bakerloo line depot was

built at Tokyngton in 1973, which was an unpopular development.

Thanks to our resident archivist, William (Chariots of Fire) Hamilton, for this History lesson

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

Bill Scholes Tel No. 01494 713867 Email: billscholes@hotmail.co.uk