

MOLTEN SPORTS SPARTAN SOUTH MIDLANDS FOOTBALL LEAGUE

NEWSLETTER No. 5
By Bill Scholes

Saturday 13th September 2008

Congratulations to both Chalfont St. Peter and Aylesbury Vale who keep the SSMFL flag flying in this year's FA Cup campaign with two great wins, not forgetting a large wad of money in the back pockets of two very happy Chairmen! We wish them both all the very best in the Second Qualifying Round – both are at home - Chalfont to Team Bath from Conference South and Aylesbury Vale host Gosport Borough from the Southern League South & West Division.

Just the one solitary hat trick this week, from Lee Bearman of Bletchley Town

FA CUP – FIRST ROUND QUALIFYING

Performance of the day undoubtedly came from **Chalfont St. Peter**, who defeated **Gloucester City** from the Premier Division of the Southern League – two divisions above them. Gloucester had only lost once all season and was clear favourites, but Chalfont got off to a flying start when Adam Louth gave them the lead after just 3 minutes. They extended the lead to two after 26 minutes, Barry Brosnan slotting home after a brilliant solo run. Chalfont continued to dominate after the break and after 60 minutes they were four goals up as first Charlie Strutton and then Brosnan again added to the total. Game over, the large crowd thought, but Gloucester bounced back with three goals inside 17 minutes to set up a nail biting last 11 minutes. The Saints hung on, and the impressive Danny Hughes finally eased the nerves with the fifth goal in the very last minute. **Aylesbury Vale** will join Chalfont in the next round as they eased through 2-0 against **Downton** from Division One of the Wessex League. Downton, who were relegated last season and are currently bottom having not won a league game so far, put up a plucky fight and made Vale wait until the 70th minute before Karl Kilmartin opened the scoring. Last round's hero Martin Kinsley added the second with 8 minutes left on the clock. **Royston Town** were always going to be up against it against Ryman Premier **Hendon** – 3 divisions higher than themselves, and so it proved... In front of a crowd of over 300, Royston Manager Paul Attfield decided to drop strikers Craig Hammond and Ryan Lockett to the bench as well as goalkeeper Jordan Gibson and may have been regretting those decisions as the Crows went in 3-0 down at half time after a poor half. However, they came out fighting in the second half and despite conceding another goal the introduction of Hammond and his quick thinking from an indirect free kick in the area for a back pass put the Crows on the score sheet albeit with an own goal. Luke Robins gave the Royston fans something to cheer about after an amazing run from the half way line beating at least six players and then rounding the keeper to finish a sublime individual goal. Hendon had a man sent off in the last few minutes. **Biggleswade United** were also playing a side from the Ryman Premier, and **Borehamwood** utilised their home advantage to run out comfortable 3-0 winners and **Oxhey Jets'** dream of a trip to the Wembley Arch was ended by **Dulwich Hamlet** who brought the Jets down to earth with a 5-1 win. Interestingly, Dulwich will now play Hendon in the next round – what might have been eh? **Brimmsdown Rovers** have been reinstated into the competition following the removal

of **Stansted** for playing a suspended player. Brimmsdown will be at home to **Eton Manor** in the Second Round Qualifying on Wednesday 24th September, kick off 7.45pm.

PREMIER DIVISION

The Division's only 100% record disappeared on Saturday when leaders **Langford** were held to a 1-1 draw at home to **Leverstock Green**. After an excellent goal less first half, Langford took the lead after 47 minutes when Lee Pateman volleyed home from the edge of the box following keeper Milner's punch out, but the lead only lasted a minute before sub Jon Davies side-footed home a cross from Griggs. Just a couple of miles up the road, it was second v third as **Biggleswade Town** hosted **Kingsbury London Tigers**, and the visitors came away with a well earned point as the two teams shared eight goals. The Waders took an early lead through a Daniel Slack penalty, which saw the visitors reduced to 10 men following the sending off of the offender, but the Tigers bounded into action to take a 2-1 lead with goals from Marcus Lansiquot and Renars Zarchenko. Then came an incredible spell of 5 goals in the last 15 minutes. On 76 minutes Mario Douglas – Watson scored the Tigers third, but Adam Bensaud on 77 minutes and an OG another minute later brought the Waders level. It wasn't over however – Edson Cata put the Tigers back in front in the 81st minute and the home side were indebted to David Daniels for his equaliser which came in the second minute of added on time – phew! Newly promoted **Kentish Town** are up to third following their excellent 6-2 win away at **Cockfosters**. Late arrivals may well have missed the first four goals as they were scored within the first 12 minutes. Twice Dave Pigden gave Cockfosters the lead, only for Paul Butler, with a penalty, and Larry Miller to even up the scores. Jonathon Donoghue headed Town into the lead for the first time on 30 minutes as the visitors took control, and second half goals from sub Kareem Essiaghi, Donoghue again- another header – and Mark Doyle completed the route. **St. Margaretsbury** came back from **Berkhamsted Town** with a 3-1 win under their belt, and this after falling behind to a Neil Richardson goal after 15 minutes. Mark Draper equalised three minutes later, and second half goals from Ben Tobin and Ben Herod secured the three points. **Holmer Green** secured their second win of the campaign winning 2-1 away at **Welwyn Garden City**. Fitzroy Williams and Dean Allen put the Greens two goals up before Liam Kenna pulled a goal back for the home side on the 80th minute, and the Greens had to endure an uncomfortable last 10 minutes before they were able to celebrate. This defeat sends the Citizens to the foot of the stairs, as winless **Haringey Borough** gained a point in their 1-1 draw with (also) winless **Colney Heath**. Another 1-1 draw came at **Hanwell Town** where the home side shared the points with **Brimmsdown Rovers**. At the Grass Roots Stadium, **Tring Athletic** bounced back from their FA Cup disappointment last week to defeat **Harefield United** 3 -1. With the full 90 minutes played, Tring were three goals up through Danny Gray and a brace from Andy Mullins, before an OG from David Foskett gave the Hares their consolation goal. In spite of taking a first minute lead through Dave Anyetei, **Hertford Town** went down 3-1 away to **Broxbourne Borough**, whose goalscorers were Rob Kemble, Bradley Drysdale and Michael Nathan.

DIVISION ONE

Bedford Town Reserves continue to set the pace at the top of the Division and they retained their unbeaten record with a 2-0 home win against **Hatfield Town** – Ashley Deverell scoring both goals in the first half. Three points behind the leaders, but with a

game in hand, are **Kings Langley** who scored a goal after 5 minutes through “veteran” Allan Arthur in their away game at **Buckingham Athletic**, and then hung on for the remaining 85 minutes to secure all three points. A slightly surprising result was third placed **Winslow United’s** 4-1 defeat at home to **Sport London e Benfica** with both Saulo Nascimento and Alberto de Matos getting on the scorecard twice. Chris Hill replied for Winslow. **Amersham Town** move up to fourth place as a result of their 2-0 win away at **Hoddesdon Town** – goals in each half from the lively Stuart Blackburne and sub Dean Sylvester respectively sealing the points. **Stony Stratford** appear to be having an inconsistent season so far – having beaten Royston Town last week, they lost 3-1 away at **Sun Postal Sports** and **Brache Sparta** shared the points with **Bedford FC** in their 1-1 draw. Another 1-1 draw occurred at **Crawley Green** where **New Bradwell St. Peter** were the visitors. The basement battle between **Arlesey Athletic** and **Harpenden Town** resulted in honours even as the two clubs shared 6 goals – 5 of these coming in the second half. Harpenden left it late as James Warner’s equaliser did not appear until the very last minute of the game. **London Colney** more than doubled their “goals for” in the season as they walloped **Ampt Hill Town** 5-1 away – it was all square at 1-1 at the break, but Colney ran riot in the second half as they ran in four more goals, Paul Danslow got his second whilst Josh Humberstone, Dan Butcher and Russ Gallagher topped up the total. **Tokington Manor** appear to be vying with Brache Sparta for the lowest attendance, with just two lonely souls watching their 3-2 win over **Cranfield United**. The Manor got off to a bad start as they went behind with an OG after just two minutes, but Andy Watson scored a double to put them 2-1 up at half time. Dan Owen increased their lead just after the break, and although Stuart Reynolds reduced the deficit shortly afterwards, the Manor held on for the valuable three points.

DIVISION TWO CUP – FIRST ROUND

On an unexpected sunny day in rural Buckinghamshire, **Padbury United** hosted new comers **Wodson Park** in the Division Two Cup. Padbury began well but Wodson scored on 16 minutes against the run of play when a shot from Evitt deceived Land in the home goal. Worse was to follow when Padbury really should have equalised but failed in front of goal, which allowed another breakaway for Hatherly to run through to score on 31 minutes. The match was all over for Padbury after only two minutes of the second half when McFayden scored for Wodson from close range. To their credit, Padbury rallied and they were unlucky to see a shot hit the Wodson crossbar and go over. However, they did score a deserved goal when Medlin hit a 25 yard drive into the net on 73 minutes. Wodson briefly wobbled but managed to put the game to bed when Mornay bicycle kicked his team’s fourth goal on 84 minutes. Wodson even had the luxury of missing two late penalties – Hatherly being the guilty party. Also through to the second round are another of the newcomers to the League, **Bucks Student Union** who defeated **Kent Athletic** 2-0 away, thanks to a second half brace from Gerald Kelly, his second being a penalty.

DIVISION TWO

With Wodson Park being involved in cup action, **AFC Dunstable** could have taken the opportunity to move up level on points with the leaders, but resurgent **Markyate** had other ideas. The game was actually played at Markyate due to Cricket being played at the Totternhoe home of AFC – but was it, well no, the cricket was called off on Wednesday but their hosts failed to inform AFC! Markyate knew they would have to put in every

effort to win and they certainly did, winning every tackle and creating some good early chances. But their new found confidence took a knock when against the run of play a turn and shot in the area from Lee Loasby gave AFC Dunstable the lead - but not for long as Aaron Hamilton put Daniel Douglas through for him to pass the ball coolly past the AFC keeper to make it level. Felix Kyeremeh put Dunstable back in front three minutes before half time, but Markyate fought back and equalized immediately before the break - a great pass from manager Scott Harvey to Damien Pickering out on the right – Pickering lost the left back and put in a great cross for Rohan Deroses to put it in the back of net. So 2-2 at half time and a solid performance so far gave Yate even more confidence to come out to win the game. A good ball from Captain Pickering down the right to Douglas, who used his skill and pace to beat one defender and then square it to his strike partner, Deroses, to finish it. Markyate were on a high now and wanted to score more and that’s what they did. A great long pass from centre back Ebon Trenchfield gave Douglas the chance to score his second, and put Markyate 4-2 up. A defensive error allowed Kyeremeh to score his second and give Dunstable hope, but Markyate defended stoutly and had keeper Ian Taylor to thank for a magnificent last minute save to secure the victory. Despite a hat trick from the much travelled Lee Bearman, **Bletchley Town** remain winless as they lost a nine goal thriller 5-4 at home to **Risborough Rangers**. Bearman’s three goals all came in the first 33 minutes as the home side ran into a 3-0 lead, but Billy Sutherland pulled one back for Rangers right on the stroke of Jaffa time. The home side increased their lead right after the break through Dean Bland, but a swift brace from Robbie Morgan quickly reduced the arrears. Tony Avery brought the scores level on the hour and Sutherland’s second, five minutes from time ensured the long journey home was a happy one. **Old Bradwell United** moved away from the bottom three with a 3-1 win at home to **Aston Clinton** – a pair from Daniel Vincent and one from another blast from the past, Ken Hollis, secured the victory. **The 61 FC** kept up the pressure on the leaders as they returned from their short trip to **Totternhoe** with a 2-0 victory, thanks to goals in each half from Alex Bennett. The mid table clash between at **Caddington** between the home side and **Mursley United** saw the visitors triumph 3-2, with goals from Steve Williams, Ed Mills and Adam Caesar. The home side reply came from Gary Kelly and Danny Swan.

BERKS & BUCKS INTERMEDIATE CUP – PRELIMINARY ROUND

Pitstone & Ivinghoe got off to a flyer in their game at home to North Bucks League side **Lavendon Sports** with a goal from Roy Henney after 4 minutes but the visitors equalized after 16 minutes. Stewart Allen and Henney, again, put Pitstone back in the driving seat before Lavendon reduced the deficit just before half time. It was back to level pegging 6 minutes after the break when Darren Dykes (didn’t he score a lot of goals for someone else last season?) netted to send the game into extra time. Pitstone proved to be the stronger team in the extra half hour, and a penalty from Danny Jones and a second from Allan saw them run out 5-3 winners.

MARKYATE FC

Its always heart-warming to hear good and positive news from our member clubs, particularly those who have not enjoyed the best of luck in recent seasons of late, and I was very pleased to receive the following item from Paul Dimmock of perennial strugglers Markyate:

“Radical changes had to be made this season and we have taken them although some doubted the decision to bring in an untried young manager. But 24 year old Scott Harvey, in his first managerial role, has been a revelation - we have more points this year than the last two put together! After last season’s shambolic showing the new committee has rallied round and the efforts are producing the goods. He has signed some exciting players and, together with one or two from last season and a few of the village lads returning, he has produced a squad capable of competing and winning games. He has instilled confidence in the players and given them a reason to train, which has given them the skill and know how to win! There is a buzz about the place which we haven’t had for many a year - I think we have dispelled the tag of the whipping boys already this season! We hope that the success is sustained - we certainly have the right things in place to have a very successful season - not just by our standards. Thanks for the newsletters, they are very useful for us poor programme editors - keep them coming - I’ll keep using them.”

YOU ARE THE WEAKEST LINK – GOODBYE!

By Peter Munt, Referee Assessor

Here’s proof that Referee’s Assessors don’t just hide behind trees and take dogs for a walk – they also go on TV game shows.

As a second year Assessor on the League I wonder if you would be interested in an item that will give many laughs to many people, at my expense. In November 2007 I took part in a recorded programme of the above subject, which was eventually aired on BBC1 in March 2008. Without outlining the programme, which I am sure most people have seen over the years, I introduced myself as a Referee and a Referee Assessor and the ‘team’ duly completed the first round without a problem, banking £1000. The difficult task then was to vote off one of our number who happened to be a young lady. Me being one of the ‘team’ who voted her off was then quizzed unmercifully by quiz-mistress Anne Robinson who got me in all sorts of difficulties, threatening to take my yellow and possible red cards shown for a supposed infringement she had committed. I only mention this fact as a possible excuse for giving the answer to the question that was posed in the second round when the attached photograph was taken. Question, What word, beginning with D, is the below ground area of a castle? Answer, after much deliberation, Pass! I shall remember Anne’s answer until my dying day, - Dungeon! What a plonker! Needless to say I was voted off at the end of that round.

STRICTLY’S BACK

Those harassed club committee members whose hearts used to sink, wondering whether they had done enough sandwiches when Eric (Harrison) and Terry (Gilmore) turned up to watch their games, will now be able to rest easily again with the imminent return of Strictly Come Dancing on the box, the Dynamic Duo will no longer be dallying in the clubhouse after the game!

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

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