



MARINERS DO JUST ENOUGH

IN A cagey season opener it was Marine who came away with a narrow win.

Both sides started the season with six new signings in their ranks and it was Barwell's Blair Anderson who was causing the most danger in the early stages.

And in the 21st minute Barwell took the lead with an excellent goal. Joel Bell headed the ball on and midfielder Brady Hickey curled a delightful drive beyond Marine keeper Calvin Hare with the outside of his right foot.

However, two minutes later Marine equalised. Barwell keeper Matt Barnam pushed Danny Mitchley to the ground in the box and from the penalty Mitchley powerfully drove the ball home.

BARWELL 1 MARINE 2

By Murray Dworkin

After the interval Barwell had the better of it as Bell went close and substitute Amarvir Sandhu missed a great chance, mis-controlling the ball with only the goalkeeper to beat.

Marine owed a lot to their man-of-the-match, central defender and captain Josh Brizell who was outstanding.

With five minutes left Barwell were caught out badly when a cross from Joe Mwasile found Mitchley completely unmarked in front of goal and he powered a low header into the net to secure the points.

STAR MAN: Josh Brizell (Marine)
ENTERTAINMENT: ★★★★★

BLYTH SP 3 COALVILLE T 1

By Jeff Bowron

second attempt.

Peter Jeffries then saved from Liam Walshe only for Massiah McDonald to knock home the rebound.

The game settled down, Nathan Watson's long ball seeing Karl Demiah get in behind, only for Jeffries to make a diving save.

Sean Reid held off Walshe to power Stephen Turnbull's corner into the roof of the net before Buddle was sent off three minutes later.

Steve Towers' long-range shot brought another save from Jeffries, Michael Liddle then set up Maguire's second with Luke Armstrong also twice going close.

STAR MAN: Dan Maguire (Blyth)
ENTERTAINMENT: ★★★★★

GLADIATORS BAG A POINT

CORBY and Matlock settled for a point as chances were few and far between, particularly for the visitors.

A draw was probably a fair result, as although Corby enjoyed more possession, they found the visitors' defence a hard nut to crack.

Corby won an early corner but Callum Ball just failed to connect and the chance went begging.

In reply, Marc Newsham had a half-chance but Aidan Grant in goal saved comfortably.

A good move started by Connor Kennedy ended with Andre Johnson's diving header flying inches wide of the inviting target and a long-range effort by Tony Griffiths saw Grant just tip the ball over.

The visitors' first attack of

CORBY T 0 MATLOCK T 0

By Gerry Lucas

the second half saw Dwayne Wiley's headie well-saved by the alert Grant.

In reply, Corby won a free-kick just outside the area and Ball hit a fierce shot that rebounded to safety off the upright.

The visitors had another chance when Newsham had a free header but could only nod well over the bar.

Ball then had two chances but blazed wildly over before Aaron Jameson denied him with a super one-handed save at his near post.

STAR MAN: Aidan Grant (Corby)
ENTERTAINMENT: ★★★★★

BUXTON 2

Walker 30, Abbott 66

HALESOWEN T 0

BUCKS PUT SWORD IN

BUX FIZZ: Brad Abbott celebrates scoring Buxton's second goal

PICTURE: Richard Parkes



DABBERS DISAPPOINT

NANTWICH Town got their new league campaign off to a poor start against Mickelover Sports as they lost 3-1 in disappointing fashion.

Mickelover looked the better side throughout as they pressed and forced the tempo of the game against a disjointed Dabbers team who will need to improve.

The home side had started brightly however, with the lively Theo Stair having a number of chances in the first half.

After 30 minutes though,

However, Mickelover kicked on in the second half as Jack Broadhead re-established their lead with 20 minutes left.

Andy Dales then wrapped up a comfortable win for the away side as he netted a third goal for his with only a minute left on the clock.

A Theo Stair chance against the post was as close as the Dabbers came to response.

STAR MAN: Theo Stair (Nantwich)
ENTERTAINMENT: ★★★★★

NANTWICH T 1 MICKLEOVER SP 3

By Steve Sharman

the away side took a surprise lead with Adam Baskerville firing in from the edge of the six-yard area after good work from Andy Dales to set him up for the chance

The Dabbers weren't behind for long as a stunning Stair free-kick drew them level almost immediately and the teams headed into half-time locked at 1-1.



BUXTON: Budtz; Joel Bembow-Leta, Burns, Young, Sumner, Doran (F Bembow-Leta, 80), Abbott, Everington, Walker (Taylor, 80), Bennett (Jackson, 71), Grayson
Subs not used: Lucas



HALESOWEN: Platt; Griffiths, Morrison, Charlton, C Williams, Denny, Bragoli, Anderson, Melvin, Chiriac (B Williams, 76), Clarke (Delaney, 83).
Subs not used: Turner, King, Kousseba-Bakala

YELTZ TO THE PERFECT START

By Tony Tomlinson

BUXTON'S rebuilt side – sporting no fewer than seven summer signings – thoroughly deserved their victory versus a Halesowen outfit, hard hit by pre-season injuries, who must have gone home thankful that the deficit was not greater.

The Bucks hit the woodwork four times without reward as they made a host of scoring opportunities, particularly in a totally dominant second half.

The game had a frenetic opening and the Yeltz had their best chance of the afternoon in the second minute when the ball fell to Tyree Clarke but his close-range effort went narrowly wide.

By midway through the half Buxton were beginning to take control with a pleasing brand of passing football.

Niall Doran was lively and when he fed Lee Bennett, the striker shot firmly across the face of goal and the winger then set up Brad Abbott who turned and fired into the side netting.

After Nicky Walker hit the post with a shot, Buxton took the lead on the half-hour when a deflection took the winger's shot wide of keeper Daniel Platt.

Immediately afterwards, Bradley Grayson and Kegan Everington both went close to doubling their team's advantage. The Bucks dominated posses-



UNSTOPPABLE STRIKE: Brad Abbott fires home Buxton's second goal against Halesowen Town

sion after the break with Abbott twice creating dangerous openings on the left that both resulted in unproductive corners.

Walker made a promising forward run but from his pull-back Bennett couldn't control.

For the Yeltz a Callum Williams curling 20-yard free kick was heading in until keeper Jan Budtz palmed it away.

Buxton attacked with a neatly-constructed move involving Doran, Grayson and Bennett but Platt parried Grayson's shot. Then Abbott made the points

safe with a superb 20-yard drive under the angle after Doran set him up.

More goals looked likely but when Abbott drove diagonally across the six-yard box a defensive lunge sent the ball against the bar.

The midfielder thrashed another drive against the post and in the end the appreciative crowd had to settle for a 2-0 final score.

Home manager Martin McIntosh was thoroughly delighted with his team's performance

and was surprised that more goals didn't result, while his counterpart John Hill had expected a tough afternoon, particularly given the injuries which had reduced his effective playing staff to 13.

He had sent his men out to frustrate Buxton but felt a lapse of concentration for the first goal and a fine strike for the second had ended up costing them defeat.

STAR MAN: Niall Doran (Buxton)
ENTERTAINMENT: ★★★★★
ATTENDANCE: 321

ALLISON STRIKE SEES OFF PICS

LAST season's play-off finalists Workington got their season off to a winning start in a competitive encounter with Rushall Olympic at Dales Lane.

RUSHALL OLYMPIC 1 WORKINGTON 2

By Andy Poole

debutant goalkeeper, Jose Veiga.

At the other end, Zak Martin did well to break into the area only to see his strike blocked by Aaron Taylor in the away goal.

With bother keepers looking alert, it appeared as if a moment of magic would be required to add to the score-line and that magic indeed almost came right on the

stroke of half-time.

A beautifully-struck free-kick from David Symington flew through the air but hit the top of the crossbar for Workington.

However, it was Rushall who looked the most likely side to score after the break but instead they were cruelly hit by a second goal from the visitors.

A rare foray forward ended with Scott Allison lifting the ball home on 71 minutes to double their advantage and apparently put the result beyond doubt.

But the home side showed an unwillingness to lie down that should serve them well this season and refused to let their heads drop.

They were duly rewarded for that determination when Alex Reid fired home from close-range late on to give them a glimmer of hope of snatching a point.

But despite their best efforts in the closing stages, they were ultimately unable to fashion an equaliser as Workington left with the win.

STAR MAN: Zak Martin (Rushall)
ENTERTAINMENT: ★★★★★

For Evo-Stik League results and tables see page 48

CURTIS LEADS A FIGHTBACK

IF THERE is such a thing as a fair result, this was it as Grantham headed away from Skem for the first time ever without taking all three points.

Skelmersdale were the better team for 40 minutes and from then until the last 15 minutes Grantham were on top.

In the opening stages Rob Bodie went close for Skelmersdale and Grant Ryan did the same for the visitors before the hosts grabbed the advantage.

Skem's 18th minute goal was well-worked – Bodie rolled the ball into Ben Hodkinson's path ten yards out and the debutant produced a powerful finish.

In a five-minute spell before the break Grantham seriously threatened as both Rhys Lewis and Ryan rattled the home woodwork.

SKELMERSDALE U 1 GRANTHAM T 1

By Neil Leatherbarrow

Hodkinson had a penalty appeal turned away after the break and Chris Almond went close for Skem, before Grantham won a penalty in the 64th minute for a foul on substitute Ben Saunders.

However, Martin Fearon dived to his left to parry away Danny Meadows well struck spot kick.

Ten minutes later a corner was not properly cleared and the ball was lifted over the Skem defence and another substitute Curtis Burrows rifled the equaliser home.

STAR MAN: Martin Fearon (Skelmersdale)
ENTERTAINMENT: ★★★★★

SUTTON Coldfield had to play their opening home game of the season away on the 3G pitch at Eastwood but still emerged with a draw.

They were forced to move grounds because of a problem with their own pitch which it is hoped will be resolved in time for the Workington clash on the Bank Holiday weekend.

It soon became apparent that Whitby could attack down the right through Callum Martin and his early cross just went wide of the far post.

Sutton hit back and an attack down their own right saw Jamie Ashmore cross a ball into the middle and Luke Rodgers forced goalkeeper Shane Bland to dive at his feet.

But it did not take Whitby long to open their account when another attack down the right by

SUTTON COLD 1 WHITBY TOWN 1

By Ken Hawkings

Martin saw a good cross turned home on eight minutes by Dave Hopson.

Sutton found it difficult to get control of the game and Whitby had plenty of chances to increase their lead but were wasteful.

The second half saw Sutton playing with more urgency and having far more control but Whitby still provided the real threat and forced three fantastic saves by Sutton keeper James Wren.

Sutton eventually got the equaliser in the 90th minute when Joe Lyng headed back the ball to Dan O'Callaghan just outside the box and he hit an unstoppable volley.

STAR MAN: James Wren (Sutton)
ENTERTAINMENT: ★★★★★

NEW BOYS FIT IN PERFECTLY

WARRINGTON Town started life in the Evo-Stik Premier League with a comfortable 2-0 win over Stourbridge.

Danny Ventre scored a first-half double as Town began the season strongly in the highest league in the club's history.

It could have been different had Justin Richards not squandered a golden opportunity to get the visitors back in it from the penalty spot, but in the end it was a routine win.

Stourbridge started the better without creating anything of note and it took a quarter of an hour for the hosts to gain a foothold.

From the third of a series of corners, Ventre found the back of the net direct from the set-piece, to the bemusement of the Stourbridge defence.

WARRINGTON T 2 STOURBRIDGE 0

By James Gordon

Lightning struck twice for goalkeeper Matthew Gould as he was again beaten direct from a set-piece on 36 minutes.

This time it was a free-kick, again from Ventre, that was whipped in from wide on the left and found its way into the far corner with the keeper distracted by James McCarten's run across the ball.

Stourbridge's invitation back into the match came on 56 minutes when Brad Birch went down under a challenge inside the box with his back to goal but Richards hit the crossbar with the resultant spot-kick.

STAR MAN: Danny Ventre (Warrington)
ENTERTAINMENT: ★★★★★