
The Hee-BGB-Ees

Posted by brian potter - 03-04-2008 20:06

Christ it's tight at the foot of the BGB Southern Premier this year.

Cheshunt and Ciren are already down, after that there are 2 points separating 7 teams.

My team, Mangotsfield, looked dead and buried a month ago, but a change of management and 3 home wins on the spin have given renewed hope.

We have 3 home games left 2 of them against fellow strugglers, if we collect 6 points from those games we're surely safe.

I also hope that Hitchin stay up, for AdC's sake.

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Re:The Hee-BGB-Ees

Posted by Harry Carpenter - 03-04-2008 23:04

This thread deserves a reply for the title alone, also because Mangotsfield is just a great name to say out loud to yourself. Go on, it's great.

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Re:The Hee-BGB-Ees

Posted by Crusoe - 03-04-2008 23:09

The BGB league is also home to Swindon Supermarine, Romulus, Rushall Olympic, Bishops Cleeve and both Taunton Town and Tiverton Town. Great names.

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Re:The Hee-BGB-Ees

Posted by twohundredpercent - 03-04-2008 23:10

It's tight at the top, as well, isn't it? The last time I looked at it before this week, Kings Lynn were nailed on to win it, but they're third at the moment. You've even got the despicable Team Bath in second place, for the "pantomime villain" effect.

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Re:The Hee-BGB-Ees

Posted by Harry Carpenter - 03-04-2008 23:11

Could someone please bring out a recording of Pam Ayres reading out an entire season's BGB results? I'd like the CD for Xmas.

Actually did anyone ever record Mark E Smith doing the classified scores earlier in the season,I never heard it.

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Re:The Hee-BGB-Ees

Posted by mnb098mnb - 03-04-2008 23:26

brian potter wrote:

Christ it's tight at the foot of the BGB Southern Premier this year.

Seven sides fighting out for two relegation spots. Merthyr Tydfil, Hitchin Town, Mangostfield United, Rugby Town, Corby Town, Bromsgrove Rovers and Bedford Town. Beautiful.

It's incredibly tight at the bottom of the BGBSW division as well, albeit between two sides. Both Bracknell Town and Slough Town are fighting to avoid the last relegation spot alongside Newport Isle of Wight. Bracknell are two points clear of Slough who are still homeless (playing in Beaconsfield rather than Windsor nowadays).

If Slough do drop it will be a mighty fall from grace for a club in the Conference not long ago. If they are relegated I suspect they will be the team lowest in the league ladder with a Scandinavian supporters club.
<http://www.swedishrebels.com>

Re:The Hee-BGB-Ees

Posted by twohundredpercent - 03-04-2008 23:28

Slough Town's supporters deserve so much better than they're getting at the moment. They were tremendous throughout their 9-0 defeat at Wimbledon last year.

Re:The Hee-BGB-Ees

Posted by mnb098mnb - 03-04-2008 23:36

From what I've read locally they aren't too far from moving back into Slough which is obviously very important.

They've suffered (quite bizarrely) this season on a couple of occasions from losing players to international call-ups.
http://blogs.guardian.co.uk/sport/2008/03/29/from_slough_to_the_caribbean_a.html

Re:The Hee-BGB-Ees

Posted by Amor de Cosmos - 04-04-2008 01:00

Thanks for the good wishes BP. Most Canaries are feeling surprisingly optimistic. From being second bottom as recently as the beginning of February Darran Day has led the club to the edge of safety. We've beaten, or drawn, the top four teams in the league in that stretch. Three of our remaining games are at home and the only team that you'd expect to stretch us are Bashley who are in with a play-off chance. Two wins out of four should see us comfortably safe. Of the rest of the bottom group only Mangotsfield are showing real signs of resurgence, while Bedford appear on the verge of imploding. There was a brawl at Swindon the other evening where several players, including Josh Sozzo, saw red. He was also sent off against us last weekend and now won't play again until well into next season.

Re:The Hee-BGB-Ees

Posted by Furtho - 04-04-2008 08:21

Darran Day is no way the name of a football manager. I just can't accept that that might be true.

Re:The Hee-BGB-Ees

Posted by Amor de Cosmos - 04-04-2008 14:46

You're right it isn't. A late night Freudian slip was responsible for turning the decidedly macho Darran Hay into Darran Day.

Re:The Hee-BGB-Ees

Posted by Gangster Octopus - 04-04-2008 14:55

The Stones can smugly ignore this struggle this season. And concentrate on the Isthmian Premier relegation struggle instead...

Re:The Hee-BGB-Ees

Posted by mnb098mnb - 05-04-2008 22:59

twohundredpercent wrote:

Slough Town's supporters deserve so much better than they're getting at the moment. They were tremendous throughout their 9-0 defeat at Wimbledon last year.

Slough Town lost 2-1 at home to Oxford City today, whilst Bracknell Town won 2-1 away at Thatcham. Slough are now 5 points adrift and with 4 games to go it look as if they'll be playing in the Combined Counties League next season. On the plus side it will guarantee a trip to Wembley.

Wembley FC, currently 13th in the CCP.

Re:The Hee-BGB-Ees

Posted by Vernons Pools - 06-04-2008 01:19

Today in the BGP, Kings Lynn drew 0-0 at home against Team Bath in front of 2,336. A dissapointing result, seeing that 'we' beat Team Bath 4-0 in Bath, just 5 weeks ago. Without looking,m I wonder just how many non-league attendances were higher than Lynn today ?

Here's the BGP table right now.

01...Halesowen....P40..Pts.77
02...Team Bath....P39..Pts.76
03...King's Lynn...P38..Pts.75

Lynn have 4 games left, 2 at home, 2 away. Team B have 1 at home, 2 away and Halesowen, 1 of each. Hopefully Lynn will push on and win the Division, especially after losing it all right at the end of last season...

This season Lynn are averaging 1,336 (before today). The next best are Chippenham and Halesowen with 440+. Team Bath ? Bottom of the division with 147.

Re:The Hee-BGB-Ees

Posted by brian potter - 09-04-2008 17:34

After last night it looks like we are safe now. 4 wins in 10 days (a quarter of our points for the whole season) have left us just a point away from safety, although with our goal difference a lot of results would have to go against us.

Bromsgrove's recent run makes them look doomed which leaves one of Bedford, Corby or Rugby likely to grab the last spot.

At the top end I'd expect KL to finally manage automatic promotion, Halesowen chucked away a 4-1 lead at home in the last 10 minutes on Saturday, whilst the students still have to go to Chippenham on the last day.

Re:The Hee-BGB-Ees

Posted by Vernons Pools - 12-04-2008 14:39

King's Lynn now 2-0 up at home to Brackley Town... got to love BBC local radio - here I am in the USA listening to the

game live on Radio Norfolk. And Team Bath are 1-0 down at home !

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Re:The Hee-BGB-Ees

Posted by Jimmy Hills Chin - 13-04-2008 09:28

My team Merthyr need just a point from the last 3 games to make sure we stay up.

It's still quite tight at the bottom, I think Corby and Bedford still have to play each other too. I think it'll be Bromsgrove and Corby to fill the remaining relegation places.

At the top I think it'll be Kings Lynn to shade it, with a game in hand they have to be favourites.

Merthyr play already relegated Cirencester at home tomorrow evening, we should (hopefully) get what we need there to stay up.

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Re:The Hee-BGB-Ees

Posted by Crusoe - 13-04-2008 09:38

Farnborough look like champions now. Three games left to play and we're six points ahead of Didcot and Fleet with a game in hand. We'd have to lose all three and Didcot or Fleet win their remaining two while overturning a major goal difference (+70 vs +56 for Didcot or +28 for Fleet).

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Re:The Hee-BGB-Ees

Posted by Jimmy Hills Chin - 15-04-2008 08:40

In an eventful match where Cirencester needed 3 goalkeepers (2 of them outfield players due to no sub keeper on the bench) Merthyr finally found themselves safe from the dreaded drop with a 3-0 win.

It was one of those games though, where it took us until midway through the second half to finally get the breakthrough after dominating possession and chances against a poor (but young) Cirencester team.

It's a relief to be able to go into the final two games of the season without the worry of relegation and we can enjoy going to Hitchin and hosting Kings Lynn, who could be crowned Champions before our game, so they could be presented the trophy at Penyarden Park before the game, I suppose, if it all works out for them.

Good to see Farnborough bouncing back too, we played 'em in the FA Cup on our way to the 1st Round proper and a Sky Sports TV date with Paul Merson's Walsall. Happy days, unlike current times...

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Re:The Hee-BGB-Ees

Posted by Crusoe - 15-04-2008 08:53

Yeah, it's nice to have some good times. I'm a little wary of the future - rumours that Francis Vines is being installed as manager, a bit of a "big fish in a small pond" attitude occasionally, slightly ostentatious touches like having a limited edition kit for our Hampshire Senior Cup final appearance - I'd like us to remain a little grounded as well.

<http://www.farnboroughfc.co.uk/shop/acatalog/hscfinalkit2.jpg>

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Re:The Hee-BGB-Ees

Posted by brian potter - 15-04-2008 10:35

Jimmy, what's the latest with the power struggle over at Penydarren?

We were gobsmacked at some of the stories we heard when you visited us last month. Especially given the sums of money that the supporters had raised and the efforts that some had put in.

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Re:The Hee-BGB-Ees

Posted by Jimmy Hills Chin - 15-04-2008 12:59

I agree Crusoe, it's best to remain grounded, especially at the level we're at. Look forward to seeing you in the Southern Premier next season anyway.

Situation remains the same Brian. Our owner and his cronies remain idiots. They are promising the usual and it will come to nothing. They are apparently waiting for the Merthyr Village development planning decision, if it gets the go ahead they will invest in the club. I just don't see it happening.

Owen Money declared at our ex-player's day last weekend that we'll be back in the Conference in two seasons. What a joke! Not a funny one either, there's absolutely no chance of that.

How are things for the Mangos now? From the outside all looks to be going well, you've shot up to midtable safety since Gregan's sacking. Looking good for the future there?

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Re:The Hee-BGB-Ees

Posted by Amor de Cosmos - 15-04-2008 13:45

Congrats to JHC and BP on your respective survivals. Hitchin still need a point to be sure. With luck it'll be against a deck-chair bound Merthyr this weekend. Needing something at Corby the following Saturday would be far too much excitement. I have to say that the run in since the middle of February has been brilliant, the best the club has played in years. If we can keep this squad together next season should be a blast.

Sadly — because, should we stay in the Southern League, they're our one and only localish derby — I think Bedford are for the drop. They've got injuries and suspensions up the ying-yang, hopelessly divided management and support has dropped at an alarming rate. Doesn't look good for them.

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Re:The Hee-BGB-Ees

Posted by twohundredpercent - 15-04-2008 14:59

Considering how far Bedford's ground is from, well, anywhere, I'm not surprised that their crowds tail off when they're doing badly.

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Re:The Hee-BGB-Ees

Posted by Amor de Cosmos - 15-04-2008 15:36

For sure, plus the relative success of the Rugby club which is closer to the town's centre, doesn't help.

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Re:The Hee-BGB-Ees

Posted by brian potter - 15-04-2008 15:39

Cheers AdC.

On the outside things do look good JHC. 5 successive victories is a sequence not seen for a few years, and all with the same squad that couldn't win under Gregan.

It was no secret that the previous management weren't popular with the players. One player was substituted during a game for playing "too much football", another openly told the support that Gregan was the worst manager he has played under. One of Gregan's coaches was regularly heard shouting "good ball" every time the thing disappeared into orbit. All of a sudden the ball spends a bit of time on the deck and our non-scoring forwards start banging them in.

With the right choice of manager, and keeping the nucleus of the squad we have now, I don't see why we can't finish comfortably in the top half next year.

The fear is that with real uncertainty over the financing of the club, the better players will be appearing for the likes of yate, clevedon, chippenham, swindon, gloucester or even yourselves next season.

Apparently, the last accounts shown to shareholders was for the year ending July 06, it's widely rumoured locally that we are in real financial woe, and the budget was cut on at least 2 occasions this season. Clubs 2 steps below us were putting in 7 day approaches for players offering them pay rises. Far from letting supporters know exactly what is going on, the chairman backed out of an open forum night at 30 minutes notice, whilst the CEO won't lower himself to talk to supporters on match days. There are the usual terrace rumours of potential investors being unwilling to step forward unless the current chairman departs.

At the moment securing our safety has put a smile on everyone's face, but there is still real worry for the future. Unfortunately, home gates can fluctuate anywhere between 100-250, and regular travellers rarely number more than 25. Attempts at getting independant suporters organisations going have proved futile. Most of the hardcore would like to see the removal of the chairman, the problem is finding someone with the financial clout to be able to do it.

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Re:The Hee-BGB-Ees

Posted by Jimmy Hills Chin - 15-04-2008 17:03

Will you be at Saturday's game Amor de Cosmos? I shall be making up the numbers in the away support, from what I hear we'll be bringing a decent-ish following, around 50-70 maybe. I'm hoping Hitchin stay up, I found the fans friendly at the home game back in January.

Sounds like our clubs have similar problems, except we know the mess we're in, and the amount. Sums of around £400,000 have been banded about. Not great.

I can't see anyone leaving your club to come to Merthyr. 'Out of the frying pan' would spring to mind in that situation.

Our esteemed and beloved leader Wyn Holloway suggested earlier in the year that he would clear our debts in February, that came and went. Then the goalposts shifted to April, and we're waiting with baited breath. Our future under Holloway seems to rest of the Merthyr Village project, which is never going to get off the ground.

We can't survive as it's going right now, crowds of 220-300 isn't bad compared to some in this league maybe but the income per week doesn't come close to clearing the out-goings and the board just don't know how to rectify the problem.

They don't seem to understand that whilst we're playing rubbish and at a standard that isn't great then people will continue to not bother coming, leaving a die-hard fanbase of about 150 max.

I'm sure it's the same for many clubs at this level mind you.

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Re:The Hee-BGB-Ees

Posted by Amor de Cosmos - 15-04-2008 18:58

Will you be at Saturday's game Amor de Cosmos?

Sadly no (it's a long commute from Vancouver.) I'll be in the UK a couple of weeks later and will have to make do with QPR's final game of the season against WBA. A much less meaningful fixture (except possibly for West Brom fans.)

Seventy fans is a good number, I think Hitchin manage about thirty-five to most away games of that distance.

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Re:The Hee-BGB-Ees

Posted by Vernons Pools - 16-04-2008 18:16

Update after last night ... Kings Lynn 5 - 0 Bashley. The Linnets are now top of the BGP South Prem. Two away games left to clinch the title and automatic promotion. This Saturday away to in form 6th place Gloucester (who won 4-0 at home last night) and then away to Merthyr (who are safe from any drop) the following week. Lynn's goal difference is +53 against 2nd place Team Bath's +29.

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Re:The Hee-BGB-Ees

Posted by Jimmy Hills Chin - 16-04-2008 19:45

That would be some trek from Vancouver to Hitchin, Amor de Cosmos. An impressive show of dedication would be required to come all that way for what could have been a relegation dog fight no longer than a week ago!

I shall be taking my camcorder to the game, so if you'd like to see the goals let me know. The quality isn't Sky Sports but it's better than nothing. Let me know!

As for Kings Lynn, they have to come to us last game of the season! We'll hopefully make 'em fight for the the top spot and give them a bit of a fright. They came down to our place towards the end of last season too, their fans were giving us the 'We are going up, we are going up!' chanting - and then they messed it up in the play-offs.

Also this time last season Champions Elect Bath City came to Penyardarren Park and we turned 'em over 2-0, midfielder Jon Kift played a blinder and scored twice.

It would be nice to get rid of KL out of the league mind you, if only to take away our longest away trek, up to The Walks it's a fair distance for us.

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Re:The Hee-BGB-Ees

Posted by Amor de Cosmos - 17-04-2008 16:48

I shall be taking my camcorder to the game, so if you'd like to see the goals let me know. The quality isn't Sky Sports but it's better than nothing. Let me know!

That'd be great JHC, I'd love to see what you get. I'm sure members of the HTFC board would be interested in looking too, if you feel up to posting there.

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Re:The Hee-BGB-Ees

Posted by Jimmy Hills Chin - 20-04-2008 13:15

Here are the videos I promised ADC.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fCc1AL2yII0> - Craig Steins gave Hitchin an early warning of what was to come. His goal (which I bloody missed) was similar to this.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kAldaCVgvhk> - Hitchin's equaliser by Pal Barnes. Good finish

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bQMeZpRBaCw> - Shane Dawe's free kick. Top drawer goal.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EkV-4dgS74A> - Steino's second goal of the game, from a quality Mike 'Crouchy' Jones

through ball.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_0WuTuvInE0 - A Hitchin chance to equalise when the score was 2-1, a good save from our former Wales Under 21 squad goalkeeper.

Overall it was a good game (from Merthyr's point of view), we controlled the entire first half and deserved the 2-1 half time lead. Hitchin came back at us in the second half and they opened us up at least 4 times but poor finishing let them down.

With about 15 minutes left it was all dead and buried for Hitchin when Merthyr broke through the middle from an excellent defence splitting pass from bean-pole striker Mike Jones for Craig Steins to break through and finish well.

And that was that, another season of away trips is over and with Kings Lynn at home to come next Saturday, the excitement might not be over yet as we could deny them the Southern League title and a chance at Conference South football.

As for Hitchin, results elsewhere went in their favour, and their fans and players celebrated once news of the Corby-Bedford and Bromsgrove-Team Bath results found their way through to the players.

Bedford suffered their second successive relegation, and I can't say I'll miss them. At our game up there their fans were unnecessarily snobbish and had a "go back to Wales, you working class pigs" type of attitude about them.

Hitchin was completely different I must say, all the fans I spoke to were very nice, friendly and honest in their appraisal of the game. Not something you get everywhere, but something which should bond non-league teams in similar positions.

My only complaint about Hitchin was the fact that it took the whole of half-time and about 12 second half minutes to get a bacon roll, all the time waiting in the pishing down rain getting soaked. Proper non-league facilities, I suppose, but it's better in some grounds than it is in others!

Bromsgrove have also suffered relegation, falling back down to Step 4 of the non-league pyramid.

Kings Lynn game out of the way next week, we can look forward to a summer of being financial crippled and perhaps threats of closure from our idiot chairman.

We have been promised investment for on the field matters and a push for the play-offs next season. I'll bet on that promise being broken by September and the management will be talking about survival. Happy days.

Re:The Hee-BGB-Ees

Posted by Amor de Cosmos - 20-04-2008 14:42

Thanks very much for the vids JHC, I'll link them to the Hitchin site. Your report squares pretty well with what local fans are saying. We had a lot of play but couldn't finish on the day. Also Merthyr were a bigger more physical team and able to exploit that, a vulnerability of ours for a few seasons I'm afraid. Fortunately, if — and it's a big if — the current team can be held together the prospects for next season look pretty good, better certainly than they have in a long time. The club is poor but debt free, and there's a supporters' trust fund which kicks in about £600 a month to be spent on players' salaries only. I think we'd probably have been relegated without it.

Proper non-league facilities, I suppose, but it's better in some grounds than it is in others!

Heh! Top Field, quaint or ramshackle, your choice? Nothing the club can do unfortunately. The Cow Commons Trust, who own the land, won't let any ground development take place. Been that way since at least the 1950s. It's all very medieval.

See you next year I hope, unless we get moved back to the Ryman League.

The Hee-BGB-Ees

Posted by Crusoe - 20-04-2008 15:59

Farnborough promoted as champions

P 40 - W 26 D 8 L 6 - GF 116 GA 46 - pts 86

That'll do.

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Re:The Hee-BGB-Ees

Posted by mnb098mnb - 26-04-2008 18:03

Slough Town have been relegated to the Combined Counties League today. They lost 1-0 at Fleet Town. I think CC is 9th tier. Though when you get that far down it's hard to work out...

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