

Advertiser

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McKenzie's hat-trick in final friendly

Hitchin Town 3
Bedford Town 4

Pre-season friendly

THERE was no lack of entertainment at Top Field for the Canaries' final pre-season game of the summer – seven goals and some free flowing football.

Manager Carl Williams continued his experiments, playing three at the back at times and making use of the flanks, but whether he carries this philosophy into the season proper remains to be seen.

Bedford took the lead on nine minutes when Michael McKenzie shot home following a corner. Hitchin levelled in the 32nd minute through Tom Pepper, who scored from 15 yards after a Tony Fontenelle free kick found him.

Four minutes later, Zak Burke put Hitchin ahead after good work by Bradley Harrison. Unfortunately, Harrison limped off before the interval, by which time McKenzie's close-range effort had made it 2-2.

Three minutes into the restart, McKenzie secured his hat-trick to put Bedford in front once more, but in the 53rd minute, Hitchin came back again to level with a cross-shot by Fontenelle.

It was left to former Hitchin man Ian Draycott to score a fine winner on 81 minutes.

HITCHIN: Bennett, Fontenelle, Pepper (Ahmed 51), Gilbert, Smith, Wordsworth, C.Donnely, Lee (Williams 66), Burke (George 61), Harrison (Mustapha 40), Lewis

Hitchin Town 0
Stevenage 4

Pre-season friendly

THE Football League's newest club arrived at Top Field looking fit, powerful and fleet of foot. Stevenage proved too strong for a team four steps below them in the footballing hierarchy, but the Canaries were not disgraced and gave a good account of themselves.

Williams was not entirely unhappy with the workout. He said: "Stevenage were strong and they gave us no space and time.

"We showed some character after conceding the two early goals and I believe we are trying to play the right way. We wish Stevenage well in the Football League."

HITCHIN: Bennett (Haggerty 84), Fontenelle, Pepper, Wordsworth (Smith h/t), Gilbert, C.Donnely (Byfield 84), Burke, Lee

■ Manager Carl Williams takes charge of his first competitive game for the Canaries with a trip to Rugby Town for Saturday's season opener in the Zamarretto League division one. Hitchin Town meet Northwood at home at Top Field on Tuesday, August 17 at 7.45pm.

Jumping Janet's win on debut

LAST weekend again saw Stevenage and North Herts Athletes compete at various venues around the south.

On Saturday at Abingdon, the fourth Southern Women's League meeting of the season saw the women's team fight for every point to secure third place in a match won by home team Radley.

On a showery day, Janet Browne in her first ever race over 300m hurdles provided the team with the perfect start, winning the first race of the day in a time of 53.5sec. She continued the winning streak by jumping 1m 55cm in the high jump to secure a B string win and then running 13.3sec in the 80m hurdles to win the A



UP AND OVER: Janet Browne on her way to her debut win in the 300m hurdles.

string. Chloe Vernon Hamilton had two fine wins in the B string 100 hurdles and long jump (16.5sec and 5m 10cm), Anne Rees won the A string PV (3m 10cm), Renee Hector the A string discus (36m 96cm) and Sandra Reed won the B string triple jump with 9m 39cm. However, without doubt the performance of the

day came from Moe Sasegbon, who having lost her club heptathlon record to Chloe Vernon Hamilton last week was determined to improve her high jump record and national ranking this week. A superb clearance at 1m 80cm ensured not only the win but a new club record and third on the U20 national rankings.

Sisters Jess, Jade and Martina Barber secured valuable points in the 400m, javelin and 100m (66.5sec, 21m 13sec and 14.9sec), Julia White ran a personal best of 2.39.6 in the 800m and Frances Gross and Loren Scanes came second in the A and B string hammer (36m 2cm and 35m 98cm).

Wet wicket wash-out for Preston

Preston 2s
Old Cholmeleians

PRESTON 2s travelled to Old Cholmeleian's 2s looking to continue their recent good form in Division 6.

Unfortunately, Preston

lost the toss and were asked to make first use of a very poor-looking wicket.

Batting proved to be a lottery with the ball flying everywhere and it was thanks to opener Matt Bruffley who courageously carried his bat for an

unbeaten 40 that Preston managed a meagre total of 111 all out.

In reply, Old Cholmeleian's were soon in trouble at 46 for 3 and the game was evenly balanced when the rain came to end proceedings.

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