

## **Amateur Football Combination Report – 10<sup>th</sup> February 2007**

In the AFA Senior Cup Civil Service travelled to West Wickham and on a pitch cutting up had a great chance to open the scoring after ten minutes. A ball was cleared to the edge of the Wickham area where Andy Findlay lobbed the ball back in over the helpless Mark Owlett, only to see the ball rebound off the crossbar and fall safe.

The quicker West Wickham side began to dominate possession and should have scored after twenty minutes. Chris Rose fired the ball across the six yard box from the left, but Sam Kemp fired straight at Chris Allinson in the Civil Service goal. Wickham continued to press, and ten minutes later Ashley Everett missed a free header from a corner, with another chance going begging minutes later as Kemp pulled the ball back for Jamie Askew who fired high and wide.

With half-time looming, Civil Service landed a sucker punch. Their main threat had been aerial throughout, and from a Ross Peebles corner Chris Jones was left unchallenged and powered home his header from ten yards out.

Wickham started the second half firing on all cylinders, and Allinson soon had to make a sharp save at the near post from James Williams, but two minutes later the home side levelled the score as the ball was cleared to Jamie Askew on the edge of the area, who given too much time was able to run around his left foot and hit an unstoppable shot into the corner. With Civil Service deflated Wickham continued to press and Rose broke down the left and crossed forcing Allinson to make another sharp save. The resultant short corner was crossed by Kemp to Neil Currie who floated his shot in at the back post to take the lead.

With half an hour to go, it should've been comfortable for Wickham, but despite Rose running Service ragged down the left and creating numerous opportunities, poor finishing by Williams, Kemp and Everett and last ditch defending by James Edge kept the scoreline close, and in the last two minutes Steve Taylor sent Mat Fearon through and Owlett had to make a superb save to preserve Wickham's 2-1 lead and send them into the semi-finals.