

Amateur Football Combination Report – 14th April 2007

The AFA Senior Cup Final saw Old Hamptonians convincingly beaten by West Wickham. Jamie Askew opened the scoring after ten minutes, beating a man on the edge of the box and tucking home, and soon after they extended the lead as Sam Kemp latched onto a long ball, hooked it into the area for John Waite to stab home. Wickham weren't finished, and before the half hour had scored a third, Ashley Everett capitalising on a defensive flicked header to fire home. On a hot day Hamptonians were beaten by half-time, and struggled to get back into the game in the second half, and with ten minutes to go Chris Rose was brought down, Waite converting the penalty for an emphatic 4-0 win.

In the AFC Premier Division Old Meadonians won 3-1 away to UCL Academicals. Meadonians started brightly, and after 20 minutes opened the scoring. Stand in keeper Dan Salanson, punted the ball upfield and Leon Smith latched onto the ball to round Mark Dawson and tuck home. Meadonians pressed for a second, and Kevin Quinn and Kevin Smith combined to set up Leon Smith to add his second. Into the second half and Accies looked likely to get back into the game, and pulled the score back to 2-1 after 55 minutes as Innis Pirrie crashed a header home at the far post from Rick Hirst's flighted corner. Accies pressed for an equaliser and looked the likelier side to score next, but against the run of play with fifteen minutes to go Kevin Smith held off Neill Shrimpton and laid it into the path of Colin Hawkins who slotted the ball home to seal the points, and lay one hand on the Premier Division Trophy.

With their title challenge faltering, HAC needed a good result against Parkfield, and opened the scoring early through Steve Onyems, but Parkfield soon hit back as Paul Ripley crossed for Adam Ripley to sweetly sweep the ball into the top corner. Before half-time HAC regained the lead through Tim Kaiser. The second half saw HAC seal the points, Onyems adding his second, and Rob Imlah adding a fourth for an emphatic 4-1 win that also confirmed Parkfield's relegation.

Old Aloysians hosted Bealonians. The only early chance saw the visitors' Mark Churchill attempt a speculative lob halfway through the first half, but the ball fell safe. As the half progressed the game opened up, Dave Gould being denied by the post for the visitors and Ian Sawyer heading straight at the goalkeeper, as the half ended scoreless. Bealonians continued to spurn chances in the second half, John Brown heading wide of an open goal. Finally, after 70 minutes, Bealonians finally opened the scoring, referee Chad Chaudhuri playing advantage from a handball, and Darren Gallery latched onto the loose ball to tuck it home. With the scoreline only 1-0, Aloysians were still in the game, and as Bealonians missed more chances through Gallery and Sam Bowen, with five minutes left Aloysians equalised through Dave Norman whose shot crept over the line although Bealonians hotly contested whether the ball had crossed the line. Bealonians threw everything forward to try and grab a winner, but Aloysians held out for a 1-1 draw which seriously dents Bealonians fading title hopes.

In Senior One, Hale End sneaked a vital 2-1 win at home to Economicals to maintain their push for promotion. In the first few minutes Hale End thought they'd scored through Mike Mesmin only to see the goal disallowed for offside, but midway through the half took the lead as John Benstead converted a second penalty. The second half saw Economicals dominate possession and deservedly equalised after 65 minutes through Chris Cooper. Hale End fought back, and with ten minutes to go Martin Treadway swung in a corner which Ben Stocker met firmly to power home a header to snatch the points.