

## **Amateur Football Combination Report – 17<sup>th</sup> March 2007**

Following a recent slump in form, Old Hamptonians needed a win against visiting Meadonians to revive their fading title hopes. The visitors dominated the early exchanges, and after 20 minutes should've scored as James Holdsworth saved a shot from Jack Costello and saw the rebound fall to Colin Hawkins, blocked by Will Spencer. Having weathered the storm, Hamptonians snatched the lead before half-time through Ian Yates who flicked on a corner at the near post for a fortunate half time lead.

Into the second half and Meadonians once again threw themselves at the home team, and with twenty minutes to go equalised as Leon Smith rose and nodded a bouncing ball into the far corner beyond the despairing Holdsworth. Meads now pressed for the winner, and with ten minutes to go Smith scored his second of the match, latching onto a ball over the top, beating two defenders for pace and rounding Holdsworth to tuck the ball home. In the final minutes Hamptonians thought they'd equalised but a Spencer rocket hit the woodwork and flew safe, leaving Meadonians with a 2-1 victory and the inside track on the title race.

Bealonians and UCL Academicals shared the points at Redbridge, with the home team opening the scoring after 15 seconds on a bobbly pitch with the sun and wind behind them. From the kickoff Accies' Eamon Rabie lost possession and Sam Bowen crossed for Mark Churchill who struck a shot first time which deflected off Carl Taylor and into the top corner of the net. Accies had few chances, Lloyd Vanson heading over from a corner, and with five minutes to go Darren Gallery spurned a golden chance from three yards out to extend the lead.

The second half was more even, but turned as Greg Blake was introduced as a substitute for Accies. Within two minutes Blake fired a long shot across the area which evaded everyone and rolled into the far corner for his first goal for the club. Having weathered the pressure Accies now pressed for the winner, but in the Bealonians Ricky Hollingsworth goal held them out and both sides had to settle for a 1-1 draw.

Albanian hosted Southgate County in a match crucial to the survival of both clubs. A tight, nervy, game was scoreless at halftime, and Albanian opened the scoring soon after through Salvatore Cinotti. Ten minutes later John Pauline extended the lead and whilst Declan O'Leary pulled one back for the visitors, Albanian held on for the 2-1 win and a result which all but condemns Southgate to relegation.

Also in last chance saloon were Parkfield, who travelled to Old Parmiterians needing three points to retain any chance of survival. Parmiterians started the strongest, and after twenty minutes were 3-0 through a Martin Fook hat-trick. Parkfield finally got into the game in the second half and whilst Paul Ripley set up Scott Little to pull the score back to 3-1, they couldn't claw back from the awful start and now need a miracle to avoid the drop.

In Senior 3 North, Mill Hill Village travelled to Old Minchendenians in a game crucial to the promotion hopes of both sides. Village opened the scoring after 15 minutes through a Steve Hurd penalty, but Minch quickly equalised through Neil Heady. Before half-time Village grabbed the lead back again through Bisi Meribe. Into the second half and Village extended their lead as Steve Kobbe set up Chris Williams, but Minch fought back again, and although Craig Bowe pulled back a second goal with five minutes to go Village held out for the 3-2 win.