

Amateur Football Combination Report – 6th January 2007

In the AFC Premier UCL Academicals hosted Old Hamptonians and the away side's clinical finishing ensured they took away the spoils. The home side started strongly and after ten minutes Ned Carabine broke into the penalty area and was upended by James Holdsworth, only to see Rick Hirst's penalty well saved. Hamptonians now started to create chances and scored after 25 minutes when Matt Harrison broke down the right hand side of the penalty box, turned and set up Steve Rishworth who slotted home. Hamptonians extended their lead before half time, when a throw in was returned to the thrower, and the ball was crossed where Oli Freeman flicked on and Matt Brunwin slid the ball home.

Into the second half conditions deteriorated and both sides struggled to move the ball on the sticky surface, but Hamptonians made the game safe midway through the half when Graeme Dornan swung over a corner and Ian Yates met the ball and powered it home.

In a relegation battle, Parkfield edged a thriller against Southgate County in Harrow. Southgate dominated the early exchanges, Jim Bannerman going close, but Parkfield jumped out to a three goal lead, as Jim Speed swung in a corner, and following a scramble Andreas Papadopolous rifled home. Mark Mower extended the lead as he met Adam Blades' right wing cross, and soon after Blades and Mower combined again for Mower to score his second. Minutes before the break Southgate pulled a goal back through James O'Leary, and midway through the second half Southgate reduced the deficit again as Michael Bannerman met a cross at the back post. In very difficult conditions both sides pressed, but the home team held on for the three points.

Albanian picked up their second win of the season against Old Aloysians, twice coming from behind in the first half through goals by Steve Lenehan. Albanian dominated the second half, scoring through Salvatore Chinotti, Eamonn Keane and Lenehan completed his hat-trick for an emphatic win.

Old Sedcopians hosted Old St Marys in the London Old Boys Cup and the away side got out of the blocks quickest and dominated the early stages. Much against the run of play Sedcopians opened the scoring after 30 minutes when Paul Soan scored following a cutback from Luke Turner. St Marys responded quickly and within five minutes finally made their pressure tell as Ben Warwick equalised at the far most meeting a cross from his brother Tom.

Into the second half and Old St Marys once again looked the likeliest scorers, and finally took the lead as Alex Coe capitalised on a defensive mistake and slotted home past Malcolm McKen in the Sedcopians net. Sedcopians fought to the last and in the final minute won a corner. McKen went up and caused mayhem and as the ball fell loose Stuart Brown struck home a last gasp equaliser.

Extra time was scoreless, and with both sides sodden and exhausted, Sedcopians edged the penalty shootout 5-4 for a somewhat fortuitous victory.

Also in LOB action Old Meadonians hosted HAC in a high quality game despite the difficult conditions. After Leon Smith had squandered an opening minute chance for Meadonians, Greg Smith saving well, HAC took the lead five minutes later as Karl Chappel broke free to fire home. Ten minutes later Meads equalised through Smith, running onto a through ball from Pete Lovell, and before halftime Will Gerrish gave them the lead via a deflected shot.

Meads dominated the early proceedings of the second half, but HAC gradually took control, and fifteen minutes in equalised as Dave Harding ghosted into the area, but Meadonians soon restored their lead as Lawrie Pointer set up Smith for his second, and as HAC pressed for an equaliser Meadonians broke away as Smith ran free to complete his hat-trick, and send Meadonians through.