

Amateur Football Combination Report – 17th November 2007

In the AFC Premier Division Bealonians hosted Hale End Athletic in a hotly contested derby and ran out comfortable 4-0 winners. On 15 minutes Bealonians opened the scoring as John Butler spotted keeper John Benstead off his line and speculatively volleyed in from over 40 yards out. Before half time Beals had extended their lead, Ian Sawyer broke through midfield and slotted a ball through for Anthony Anderson to tuck home. Beals turned around into the wind, and pushed Sawyer up front. The first clear chance fell to End's Martin Treadway, who should've reduced the arrears, but Bealonians sealed the game as a move down the left saw Alex Salmon set up Carl Taylor to add the third. With time running out Gary Bryson swung in a free kick, which Butler met to head home and seal a 4-0 win.

In Senior 3 South Centymca extended their lead over second placed Old Guildfordians with an emphatic 4-0 win. Centymca opened the scoring after 10 minutes as Mark Mannerson fired home from ten yards, and 15 minutes later Alex Sirkin opened up the defence again for Dave Moose to add a second. Before half time Sirkin and Moose combined again, adding the third. Guildfordians came into their own in the second half, Rich Bland and Dave Head standing out, but on 70 minutes Centymca sealed a 4-0 win as Mannerson added his second to complete the scoring.

In AFA Cup action, Old Aloysians travelled to Crouch End Vampires and found themselves 1-0 down after ten minutes Lee Gregory taking advantage of a defensive mistake for the only goal of the first half. Into the second and Vamps added a second, Dean O'Neill again taking advantage of sloppy defending. With Aloysians needing a change of tack, Player/manager Dave Norman brought himself on and soon reduced the arrears. Aloysians now took over the game, and equalised as Sean O'Donnell tucked home with his left. With seven minutes to go, Tom Palmer cut inside his man with a double scissors and unleashed a screamer into the top corner to win the game. Norman modestly put the 3-2 victory down to his own inspired decision to introduce himself!

Also in cup action, Old Hamptonians took the lead against Winchmore Hill, Matt Harrison flicking on a cross from the right to Barney Lawrence-Jones who brought the ball down and fired home. Into the second half and Hill began to take control, especially following the dismissal of Andy Frost on the hour, and with two minutes to go deservedly equalised as Andy Barrell dispatched a penalty to make the score 1-1. Extra time was scoreless, and as the game went into penalties the key moments came as James Holdsworth saved twice, and his team-mates held their nerves to seal a 5-4 penalty shootout win.

Old Meadonians lost out in a seven goal thriller away to Polytechnic. Poly opened the scoring through Jeremy Seales but Meads quickly hit back as Leon Smith levelled the scoring before half-time. Into the second half and Poly again took the lead, James Black firing home, but as defeat beckoned Alex Hugh-Jones stepped up to sneak Meads second equaliser and take the game into extra time. Meads started the stronger, and just before the break Peter Eguae gave them their first lead of the game, and with five minutes to go it seemed they'd prevail. However, as Meads tired, Poly hit them with two late goals through Shane Cunliffe and Mark Cringle to send them crashing out 4-3.