

Amateur Football Combination Report – 19th April 2008

Following their midweek draw with Albanian, Old Aloysians had opened up the Premier Division title race and travelled to UCL Academicals in search of three points. Accies had their own troubles, as their epic midweek London Old Boys Senior Cup win on penalties against Old Challoners had left a number of players injured, and with two further missing due to ill-timed childbirth (!) the team was bare bones.

Aloysians started the strongest and on the half hour opened the scoring as Mark McGowan crossed from the right for Terry O'Neill to tap home. Soon after Aloysians had a great chance to extend their lead, only for Dan Chantler to superbly tip over Damien Swann's shot. Accies threatened rarely, and early in the second half scored their second as Chris Thomas slotted neatly from Swann's pass. Accies fought back briefly, Dave Jenkin seeing his free kick tipped around the post by Jason Suban, and in the final minute Thomas fired wide as Aloysians ran out comfortable 2-0 winners to keep their title hopes alive.

Albanian dropping points midweek also opened the door for Old Meadonians, and they travelled to HAC needing the win to maintain an unlikely title challenge. The first half was scoreless, with neither side creating much of note, but Meadonians opened the scoring early in the second half as Jack Costello broke down the right hand side and crossed for Leon Smith to head home. Meads sealed the points as Colin Hawkins crossed for Dwayne Rhone to power home to ensure a comfortable 2-0 victory.

Old Hamptonians faced Hale End in a match which would see the winners all but safe from relegation and the losers all but doomed. The first half was scoreless, a few half-chances falling to Old Hamptonians but Ian Yates blazed over the bar, but within ten minutes of the restart Yates crossed for Matt Harrison to lob the keeper from six yards out. With twenty five minutes to go Hale End equalised through a Martin Treadway header at the near post. Hamptonians retook the lead as a corner from Olly Freeman looped in and Richard Blakey headed home from six inches. Five minutes later Hale End drew level again, Kevin McDelling breaking down the inside right channel and fired home off the far post beating the despairing dive of James Holdsworth. Hamptonians continued to press, and Harrison went close in the final minute, but shot wide to leave the score 2-2, and both sides still sweating on results in the final weeks of the season.

In Senior 2, Old Minchendenians followed their midweek win against Old Danes with three more points in a hard fought game against Old Vaughanians. The score at the break was 2-2, Minch having twice taken the lead through Tim Chinnery and Alex Headey, only for Eddie O'Reilly to peg them back twice, but in the second half Minch took control, and goals from Tylan Uysall and Chinnery's second ensured a 4-2 win for Minch that guaranteed promotion and left them in pole position for the league title.

In Senior 3 North, UCL Academicals Reserves needed a win to send them back to the top of the division, and ran out 3-0 winners against Old Aloysians Reserves. First half goals from Kieran Jennings and Nat Keast, plus a second half strike from Gareth Jenkin ensured Accies took the points, and with Enfield Old Grammarians being held to a draw by Albanian, Accies promotion was all but assured barring a mathematical miracle in the final weeks of the season.