

Amateur Football Combination Report – 9th February 2008

In the AFA Senior Cup UCL Academicals travelled to Old Meadonians and came out with all guns blazing. Within ten minutes Accies had scored twice, Dave Jenkin's right wing cross evading everyone to sneak in at the far post, and Accies quickly extended their lead through Rick Hirst's free kick. Accies continued to dominate, but Ian Roberts saw two chances go wide, Jenkin hit the post and Neil Gillard saw a header cleared off the line as Meads survived until half time only 2-0 down.

Meads turned around and quickly got back into the game, a through ball to Leon Smith seeing him upended in the penalty area, only to see a good advantage played by referee Steve Bodell and the ball fall to Ed Glover who tucked home. Quarter of an hour later Meads levelled the score as Smith broke through again. The game flowed end to end, but Accies held firm with Fabrice Bocquet making several superb saves, until ten minutes to go when Smith broke through to power home. Accies continued to battle, Jenkin crashing a shot against the bar, and in the last minute Dan Chantler saw his header from a corner slip wide as Meads held out for a 3-2 win.

Also in cup action Old Aloysians won 2-0 against a hard working, youthful Old Minchendenians. After weathering early pressure, just before half time Aloysians opened their account as Dave Norman sprang Dave Laird who rounded the keeper and slotted home. Minch continued to fight hard, but on the hour mark, Aloysians killed off the tie as Sean O'Donnell's through ball found Laird, who crossed for Daniel O'Donohue to side foot home and send Aloysians through to the semi-finals.

In the Premier Division Albanian sneaked a 2-1 win against Hale End Athletic. After a scoreless first half Albanian looked to have scored the only goal as James Concannon broke down the right and squared for Salvatore Ciniotti to side foot home, but with two minutes to go, Hale End equalised through Kevin McDelling. Albanian fought back, and Joe Lyons burst through feeding Ciniotti to fire home past Tom McCombie's despairing dive and take the points with the final kick of the game.

Bealonians had the best of the first half chances against Old Hamptonians, with Ian Gould and Alex Salmon going close. The second half followed a similar pattern, though John Reed had save well from Matt Harrison to keep Hamps out. With quarter of an hour to go, Gary Bryson crossed from the right and Carl Taylor heading home off the post. Beals pressed for a second, Sawyer being denied by James Holdsworth when through one on one, but Hamps rarely threatened as Beals held on for a 1-0 win.

HAC won 4-1 comfortably against Enfield Old Grammarians, Steve Watson creating an early goal cutting inside to cross for Stuart Holt to head home. Watson soon doubled the lead, his left wing cross floating in at the back post. Soon after half time, HAC extended their lead to three, Paul Jarowicki firing in a cross from the left which was cruelly deflected past the keeper. Enfield pulled a goal back through Chris Herron's penalty, but with ten minutes to go Jarowicki set free Steve Onyans who pulled the ball back for Dave Harding to finish neatly and ensure a comfortable win.