

## **Amateur Football Combination Report – 24<sup>th</sup> January 2009**

The AFC programme was once again ravaged by the weather, so league focus was on lower divisions.

In Senior Three South, on a boggy pitch, Old Thorntonians looked the strongest against Fitzwilliam Old Boys from the outset, but Fitzwilliam held out until just before half time when James Rodriguez capitalised on a defensive mistake by Geoff Champkins and rounded keeper Chris Barnes to slot home. Fitzwilliam fought back, Matt Powell saving well twice from Craig Wilson. Midway through the second half, Thorns made it two, Rodriguez teeing up Anthony Jeffrey to fire home first-time from the edge of the box. Thorns quickly made it three, Tom Hyde's pass cutting open the defence for Tony Dolan to slot home left-footed. As time ran out, Jeffrey broke through and rounded Barnes, only to be pulled down by Joe Huxley, but Dolan saw his penalty saved by Barnes and skied the rebound over the bar, leaving Thorns 3-0 winners.

Away to John Fisher Old Boys, Royal Bank of Scotland had a field day, Steve Dillon grabbing a hat-trick, with Iain Pickering and Mark Roberts both grabbing braces as RBS ran out emphatic 7-0 winners.

In the London Old Boys Senior Cup, Old Suttonians hosted Premier Division front runners Bealonians and the home team started quickest, spurning early chances, leaving Beals to take the lead after five minutes, as Gary Bryson fed Mark Churchill whose header looped into the top corner. Sutts continued to press, forcing good saves out of John Reid, and just on the half hour equalised as Daniel Smith's twenty yard free kick went through the wall leaving Reid unsighted.

The second half saw Sutts looking hungrier and on seventy minutes Pete Walsh's header back to Reid fell short and Smith pounced to give them the lead. Beals chased the equaliser, helped by Stephen Thompson's sending off reducing Sutts to ten men, but they couldn't breach the resolute defence as Suttonians held on for a 2-1 win.

Old Challoners faced Old Dorkinians, and ran out comfortable 5-2 winners, opening the scoring through Dave Croucher only to be pegged by quickly through Tom Neville's equaliser. Before half-time, Chris Powell had restored their lead, and Challoners now took, second half goals from Jordan Smith and Matt Walsh making it 4-1, before Croucher added his second via a huge deflection off Shaun Patterson. A late consolation from Chris Black completed the scoring, but was of little comfort to Dorkinians.