

WINTER CHAT

The Weekly Newsletter from Winchmore Hill Football Club

Season 2009-10

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Friday 18 December 2009

HILL SQUEEZED OUT OF MIDDLESEX CUP

Once again the Hill did not impose themselves against what, on paper, is lesser opposition. On a narrow and short pitch, resembling black treacle, the Hill were squeezed out of the AFA Middlesex & Essex Senior Cup by AFC Third Tier side Old Danes.

The Hill had their chances. Recovering from an early goal from a short throw-in that reached the penalty spot, followed by an overhead kick that found the corner of the net, goals from Mattie Knights and Andy Barrell had given the Hill a half time lead, Knights a close range header from a free kick and Barrell firing in a curving free kick from 22 yards.

Chances came in the second period to put the game beyond Danes reach. An-Rui Chiew pulled his shot wide of the post from close range with only the keeper to beat, Barrell fired over the crossbar and other chances went begging.

With about fifteen minutes to go Danes got a lucky break. From a long clearance the ball fell between their two front men, one of whom went on to score. It looked suspiciously offside (even their subs on the sideline remarked that it was five yards offside at least), but on a short pitch with the referee in the right place, a long clearance is going to leave the match official well out of position to adjudge offside, especially with no assistant referees.

This lifted the hosts and five minutes before the end they got their winner with a header from a poorly defended corner.

No real excuses, we failed to take our chances and they took advantage of our mistakes.

We shall have to play better to keep up the title challenge and our bid for the Big Cup, the AFA Senior Cup, where we are on the road to Solihull to meet Wake Green in the next round on 9 January. Wake Green won 8 - 1 in the last round, against Old Danes...

Winchmore Hill Fixtures and Results

Saturday 19 December

First XI	Old Actonians	(h)	SAL	2.00
Second XI	Civil Service	(h)	SAL	2.00
Third XI	Crouch End Vampires	(a)	SAL	2.00
Fourth XI	Alexandra Park 4	(h)	SAL	2.00
Fifth XI				
Sixth XI	East Barnet O.G. 4	(a)	SAL	2.00
Seventh XI	Old Parkonians 5	(a)	SAL	2.00
Eighth XI	Crouch End Vampires 7	(h)	SAL	2.00
Ninth XI	Alexandra Park 6	(a)	SAL	2.00
Tenth XI	Old Parkonians 9	(a)	SAL	2.00

Saturday 12 December

Old Danes	(h)	Cup	2 - 3
Merton	(h)	SAL	3 - 2
Carshalton	(a)	SAL	4 - 0
Old Owens 4	(a)	SAL	2 - 3
Alexandra Park 5	(a)	SAL	3 - 0
Crouch End Vamps 6	(a)	Cup	10 - 1
Winchmore Hill 9	(a)	Cup	2 - 1
Polytechnic 7	(h)	Cup	1 - 6
Winchmore Hill 7	(h)	Cup	1 - 2
Old Stationers 5	(a)	SAL	3 - 7

Sunday 20 December

Vets A XI	Fanfold	(h)	10.30
Vets B XI	Old Minchendenians	(h)	10.30

Saturday 26 December – Boxing Day

A Hill XI	Alexandra Park XI	(h)	10.30
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Come down for a Christmas drink on Saturday...

With the First XI and the Second XI both playing at home on Saturday it is an ideal opportunity to come down for a pre Christmas drink with your mates and cheer on the boys.

Fred will be in the kitchen cooking up some decent grub to soak up the beer and the pre match entertainment on the Big Screen is Portsmouth v Liverpool and after the game Arsenal v Hull City.



On Sunday on The Big Screen is the Wolverhampton Wanderers v Burnley at 1.30 and at 4.00 the London Derby – West Ham United v Chelsea.

HILL ROUND-UP

The Reserves were in action against Merton and came out on top on the day by 3 – 2, thanks to goals from Tony Kokkinos, Joe Bennis and Danny Fitzpatrick. The win puts them up to third place in the league table, but other sides around them have games in hand.

The Threes were at Carshalton and enjoyed a comfortable 5 – 0 victory to maintain top spot in the league table. Goal scorers not known at present. The Fourth XI were at Old Owens and in a close game came out second best, losing 2 – 3. They are in mid-table position As yet I don't know the scorers. The Fives, at The Races at Alexandra Park got all the points in a 3 – 0 win with goals from Alex Green (2) and Damian Bush. The win puts them up to fourth place.

The Sixth XI enjoyed their biggest win for a long time with a 10 – 1 win against Crouch End Vampires in the AFA Cup. Joss Lillis, Charlie Camper, George Ellinas, Paul Day and Shane Gallagher each scored one, Reece Wilson got two and Owen O'Donovan scored 3.

The Sevens were drawn against The Nines in the AFA Cup with the 7s coming out on top 2 – 1. I don't have the scorers for the Sevens, but the Nines goal was scored by skipper Ben Jones.

The Eighth XI were knocked out of the AFA Cup 6 – 1 by Polytechnic 7s with Kris Eracli scoring the consolation goal for the Hill. The Tenth XI, in a league match at Old Stationers (5s) lost 7 – 3 with Darryl Martin, Mark Barrell and Ben Swainsbury scoring for the Hill.

On Sunday, The Vets A XI had a comfortable 6 – 2 win against Rayners Lane. Dave Flint scored a hat trick, Zoff grabbed two and Ricky Vasconcellos the other. The B XI were playing the Annual Match against The Tennis Section who were a bit too young and won comfortably 4 – 0. Andy Barrell scored twice.

Southern Amateur League News

Saturday 12 December

Division One

Old Salesians move up with a 3 – 1 win at Hayes Hill against Old Wilsonians and at Corkscrew Hill, West Wickham are held to a 2 – 2 draw by Civil Service. Salesians are now fourth with games in hand over everybody. West Wickham are still rock bottom with five points from six games, one point behind Wilsonians.

Division Two

Norsemen and Carshalton are battling it out for top spot in Division Two. There was no change last weekend as Norsemen maintain top place after beating Old Finchleians 4 – 0 at Church Street while Carshalton beat Allyn Old Boys 2 – 0 at Beddington Park. East Barnet Old Grammarians leap-frog Old Finchleians with a 2 – 1 victory HSBC who move off the bottom due to Kew Association incurring penalty points and losing 6 – 2 at BB Eagles.

Division Three

The top of the table clash between Merton and Ibis saw Merton take a two point lead at the top of the table following a 2 – 0 win. Old Stationers close the gap between third and fourth after a 1 – 1 draw at Alexandra Park as South Bank Cuaco lost 4 – 1 at Old Latymerians. Bottom placed Bank of England drop further away after losing 0 – 5 to Old Lyonians at Roehampton and Southgate Olympic move up after

beating Old Westminster Citizens 4 – 2 at Barrowell Green. Old Parks, involved in a rearranged Cup match, still hold their 100% record with twelve points from four games. A good bet for promotion at the end of the season.

Div 1 Table	P	Pts	Div 2 Table	P	Pts	Div 3 Table	P	Pts
Winchmore Hill	9	19	Norsemen	10	22	Merton	10	20
Polytechnic	7	15	Carshalton	9	20	Ibis	10	18
Old Actonians	8	14	East Barnet O.G.	9	16	South Bank Cuaco	10	15
Old Salesians	6	13	Old Finchleians	11	15	Old Stationers	10	14
Broomfield	9	13	Crouch End Vamps	8	14	Alexandra Park	8	14
Nottsborough	7	10	Alleyn Old Boys	9	14	Southgate Olympic	11	13
Civil Service	10	8	BB Eagles	10	11	Old Parkonians	4	12
Weirside Rangers	9	8	Lloyds TS Bank	9	7	Old Latymerians	8	12
Old Owens	7	6	Old Esthameians	6	6	Old Lyonians	9	10
Old Wilsonians	6	6	HSBC	9	5	Old Westminster Citiz	9	6
West Wickham	6	5	Kew Association	8	3	Bank of England	9	5

Holiday Fixtures

There will be no scheduled league fixtures on Saturday 26 December or Saturday 2 January, but clubs are permitted to arrange league matches if they wish.

Old Danes 3 Winchmore Hill 2

AFA Middlesex & Essex Senior Cup

Winchmore Hill 3 Merton 2

SAL Intermediate Section – Division One

A somewhat inconsistent season for the Reserve's meant that this fixture was to be pivotal in determining the ambitions of this young team, settle for mid-table mediocrity or mount a serious challenge towards the North of the league table.

Cookie returned from injury replacing Samson while Kokkinos slotted back into midfield replacing player-manager Hornsby.

After only ten minutes The Paulin Ground was once again at the centre of the 'goal line technology' debate as a shot early on was deemed to have crossed the line by the entire Merton team who fortunately all found themselves with an unobstructed view of the Hill goal line. The Referee resisted the appeals.....

Hill started the match solidly but conceded early after a scramble in the box. There was no white flag and Hill instantly began to push for the equaliser coming close on a few occasions before equalising from a free-kick. Fitzpatrick saw his in-swinging cross nestle itself kindly into the net after both teams had failed to get onto the end of it.

The rest of the half by no means fizzled out, this competitive fixture was there for the taking and it was up to Hill to take this game by the scruff of the neck. For the rest of the half they did just that and were rewarded just before half time. A good attacking move gave Newton space to deliver a peach of a cross from the right hand side which was met emphatically by Kokkinos whose diving header narrowly beat the outstretched goalkeeper. Kokkinos' golden boot campaign was well and truly back on track!

Hill went into the break with a deserved lead but knew the battle was by no means over. An inspirational half-time team talk from Newton saw even 'boxer' Frank overcome with emotion.

Hill knew that scoring an early second half goal would obliterate the Merton resistance but unfortunately the next goal was an equaliser, once again from a set piece.

Hill were not ready to succumb to a rugged Merton side. Hill still had the desire but the game hung on a knife edge. Both teams remained competitive but neither were managing to create any clear cut chances. A string of changes for the home side gave Hill the 'shot in the arm' that they needed (all be it at the expense of seeing a furious Haslam storm into the changing room hurling insults and threats at several Hill players after being substituted) and a breakthrough looked remotely possible. Up stepped Joe Bennis who with five minutes left on the clock sent a stinging shot towards goal which the goalkeeper could only parry into the back of the net sending the Hill support into a state of euphoria.

A superb victory for the reserves....

Hill must look to take this attitude into next Saturday's game and formulate a consistent run of results which will give the side a chance of realising its full potential.

I can confirm that a hole was discovered in the wall of the home dressing room following the victory.....

Haslam has strongly denied any involvement.

Carshalton 0 Winchmore Hill 4

Southern Amateur League - Junior Section Division One

They say that Christmas comes but once a year and while I feel sorry for Christmas (I guess he must have recently moved in with his Mrs) my liver is relieved that the supa's only get to spend Sir Ingerhams fines money once at Christmas and then again at the end of the season. We may miss Dirk Dench's consistently generous contribution, however, we still had over 350 beer tokens for Chris and Patricks secret Santa Salisbury bonanza.



This week we made the very long journey to Carshalton knowing that with Notts busy in the cup 3 points was a must. With pants outside trousers, superman t-shirts, Batman masks and a full Wolverine costume (great work Mr Haslam) there was a pretty robust observance of the Superhero theme. See the attached pictures of WWD and Sir Ingerham in costume.

Bearing in mind Carshalton had drawn against Alleyns last week and recently we have not been at our best, we were under no illusions about the size and importance of the task. Again there were changes but this week we started quickly, kept that momentum going and in the

first half especially, comprehensively outplayed an organised and able Carshalton. Patrick and Declan dominated midfield and Nipper followed his instructions of good early deliveries into the box. After about 15 minutes Declan's perfect cross from the right found Ingers at the back post, he lifted his not insubstantial bulk, rose above the defender and headed home. The gaffa, who has found a new lease of life alongside Alan, made a proper tackle, (if he can win the ball anyone can) and we started to keep the ball, pass and play.



The second goal came as a result of some neat, intricate passing through our midfield into Ingers feet. He hit his shot first time on the turn and left the keeper stranded although he did get clumped by the defender for his troubles. Half time; 2-0, more of the same a little more composure and we were sure that the game was there to be won. Two nil can often be a difficult score line as you decide whether to hold on or to try and get a winner. We chose the latter, the 3s are always at their best when we maintain our spine, get full-backs overlapping and get the ball wide.

Hassie and Jon allowed us to get forward knowing that the cover was there and our constant good work out wide stretched Cars' midfield. Our 29th corner of the game was delivered by Ingerham who, as he will tell anyone within earshot, has played a part in every goal we have ever scored, ever! True to form he took the corner from which Paddy notched to make the game safe. We still had time for Dan, (whose work rate, endeavour and determination, should always be worth a goal) to score a lovely little toe poke. He beat the offside trap, beat the on rushing goalie and still got enough control on the ball to push it into the corner and complete a job well done. The Supas again found themselves on the wrong end of some marginal refereeing decisions including a penalty in the last minute but with 3-points and a clean sheet away from home even the second worst of them was not going to spoil our party.

Back to the Hill to spend the tokens on fruit beer and shots, to cry with laughter at seeing Captain America rendered (literally) powerless by having his sleeves tied behind his back, to share the joy of

presents with loved ones and generally make merriment. Mid-point in the league and still in with a shout, although Carlo and his mates will need to do us a favour again.

Much love to and from the Supas.

Alexandra Park 0 Winchmore Hill 3

Southern Amateur League - Minor Section Division Two (North)

A sad and wet looking pitch was always going to be a leveller as the Hill took on the bottom placed side. Within minutes it was churning up and the standard of the game was dictated by the players movement. At every opportunity the Hill got it wide to Jordan or Alex Green and it eventually paid dividend in the 25th minute when young Green cut inside from the right and bent the ball past the keeper with the outside of his foot. Not long after the restart Neil Prosser sent in a free kick from the left which Bush lurched towards and missed with his foot. Fortunately his knee hit the ball and the keeper slipped resulting in a very apologetic Bush as he turned away and shrugged as the ball fell over the line to make it 2-0.

Within a couple of minutes the lead was extended further as a long kick from Millard saw Green run through the defence again and slot another in just as it looked like he had missed his chance. Hill were solid in the middle with Goldring and Kelly filling ample space. The back line never looked in trouble for the rest of the half.

The second half saw a very resilient display from AP who kept pushing and eventually Millard was forced into a very smart save down to his right. Hill pushed up further but the pitch by this time was almost making it unplayable. Neil Goldring was in with a super opportunity but the chance sailed towards Wood Green and the ball was never seen again. Fisher had a great performance down the right and Kerridge made a couple of great tackles at the back. Sidoli replaced Bush late in the second half and brought some added steel to the back line but the final few minutes passed without incident. Hill were very grateful to get off the pitch and it is rumoured that Kelly is still showering his mighty mass and trying to get clean back at their changing rooms. In the words of Steve Millar "I really didn't do that much today" seems the best way to sum this match up. A professional display where we did just enough.

Around the grounds...

West Wickham 2 Civil Service 2

(From West Wickham website)

Wickham haven't won at home -- Civil Service haven't won away.

A draw was a certainty for punters

Perhaps West Wickham were happier with this result than Civil Service -- their away record was better than our home record -- and still is. The Service haven't won away and can only boast a point at Weirside Rangers -- on the other hand the Bluebloods were looking for their first home win having lost all 3 previous games. A draw was therefore not the biggest surprise.

With Neil Currie and Adam Wadey returning from injury Greg Brown dropped to the bench - Dan Haines was unfit so in came Matt King and Joe Ivory was given a run out in the Reserves. The starting line up looked a bit stronger than previous weeks but it didn't last long -- James Gibson was under the weather with flu and only lasted 15 minutes before he was withdrawn -- Adam Freeman moved into central defence with Greg Brown on the right side of the back four. By this time Adam Wadey had given us a lead after 4 minutes when he headed home Jay Askew's right wing corner. Wickham started at a high tempo but the defensive disruption allowed Civil Service an opportunity to settle down and they gradually won the midfield and it was no surprise when they equalised after Wickham gave away possession in the last third. We paid the penalty for sloppy defending and continued to give away possession too easily and the visitors were the happier side at half time.

We soon lost Brown -- he went off just after half time with a groin problem and on came the more attacking Mark Pettyfer on the right flank. The visitors took a deserved lead mid way through the half but fine work by Ben Scarborough immediately after the restart gave Pettyfer the chance to level the scores --- which he did. The visitors lead lasted about one minute as Scarborough won the ball in the centre of the park, beat two men and threaded a diagonal pass to the right wing. Pettyfer showed some much needed pace and outstripped the left back and drove his shot into the net off the right hand post. The goal came against the run of play and Civil Service were stung into further offensive action. The Wickham rearguard did well to prevent a further score as the visitors pressed hard, overrunning our

midfield and D'Urso, Currie and Freeman were kept at full stretch. Our only real goal threat came from James Owlett's long throws -- The returning Matt King had one clear chance, which he made via his persistence, but his cross shot was well wide when he should have done better.

Civil Service were disappointed with the result as they felt that they were the better side and few, who saw the game, will argue with this but they have a habit of drawing (5 out of 10 games) and that could cost them dear at the end of the season. They were certainly a better side than their record indicated but so are West Wickham and we will improve in the coming weeks when match fitness improves for those just returning to the team --- and we have important players coming back in January. However, we must improve our level of possession, as currently the defence is being given little breathing space - the ball just keeps coming back and there is little or no pattern to our play.

I gave the Man of the Match to Jay Askew for his 100% effort and determination to make something out of some atrocious "passes". The introduction of James Owlett gave us another dimension -- he has pace and aggression and that has been missing from the Bluebloods so far this season.

Next week we entertain Old Owens (the ground is at Corkscrew Hill boys, in case you forget)-- they are the best side that we have met this season and it promises to be a good contest so come along and support us.

BB Eagles 6 Kew Association 2

(From BB Eagles website)

A 6 goal demolition of Kew saw our mini revival continue with goals coming from Tunde (2), Malc, Deji, Craig and Tomek.

We again started at a high tempo and took the lead after only a minute. A good ball from Tomek found Deji in the box. With a nice bit of skill he worked some space to pull the ball back to Tunde who finished brilliantly with the outside of his right foot.

We continued to dominate the play moving the ball well and creating several half chances but did not capitalise on the lead. Indeed it was the visitors who equalised on 20 minutes. An in swinging corner from the left saw the unlucky Matt Charge head the ball past the helpless Aidan to make it 1 – 1.

Although not quite at full throttle, we continued to control the game and on 25 minutes went 2 1 up. A good ball from Tunde saw Malc cut in from the right. His low effort took a slight deflection to deceive the keeper and make it 2, the dubious goals panel giving the veteran winger the benefit of the doubt on this occasion.

Minutes later and we made it 3. Some excellent hold up play from Tunde saw the powerful striker play the ball out wide to Malc. His resulting centre saw Deji take a great touch and then bury his effort into the far corner.

The visitors were visibly stunned and we began to look threatening with every attack. Craig had a headed effort saved whilst a magnificent centre from Tunde saw Jim crash one against the bar.

10 minutes before half time and it was 4. A hopeful clearance from the back set Malc free down the right. He produced another fantastic centre and the fox in the box Tunde finished magnificently with his head to give us a commanding lead.

We continued the second half in the same vein and looked as though we could rack up a hatful.

A brilliant cross from the cultured left foot of Tomek saw Craig rise at the back stick only to crash one against the bar. Minutes later we almost made it 5 when Tomek saw his thunderous 25 yard free kick rattle the crossbar with the keeper beaten.

Then on 55 minutes we did nab the 5th with possibly the goal of the game. Jim played the ball out wide to Tomek. From here the talented Pole drove at the Kew defence leaving 2 defenders for dead before firing an unstoppable left footed drive into the roof of the net from an acute angle.

Jim had a couple of left foot efforts before Tunde found himself with a glorious opportunity to grab his hat trick. A Matt Warburton through ball saw the pacy marksman outstrip the visitors defence and bare down on the keeper. His resulting effort saw the keeper stick out a leg to deflect the ball wide of the post.

With 15 to go we made it 6. Again some great work down the right between Chris and Malc saw the latter deliver a great centre. Craig rose majestically at the back stick to nod comfortably home.

With minutes left Kew grabbed a consolation with a nicely worked move and finish but this was to be our day.

Today again proved that if you roll your sleeves up and work hard it will give you the opportunity to get hold of the ball and play football. Today we played some really good stuff and all 6 goals were created through playing some lovely football.

This was a great team effort but special mention today goes to Malcolm whose wing play was of a very high order. Chris Bicheno also deserves a mention for an exceptional performance at right back. Hopefully we can take the same work ethic into our next game away at HSBC.

Great effort today lads.

Carshalton 2 Alleyn Old Boys 0

(From Carshalton's website)

Following the farcical cancellation of last week's home fixture, when Kew Association (who run 8 sides) called off the match at 11.30am because they couldn't get a team out, it was just nice to get back on the pitch. Alleyn Old Boys are one of several sides clustering near the top of Division 2 so it was vital that Carshalton 1st XI put in a strong performance, particularly after their first league defeat of the season at the hands of Norseman.

The pitch was tacky and testing after the recent rain but Carshalton started the game strongly winning all the 50/50 challenges and looking up for the challenge. Billy Tilley was the early hero after a bursting run down the left hand channel was picked out by someone, I'm guessing Dave Tilley but could be wrong, with a fantastic ball and he calmly chipped the oncoming keeper.

Carshalton continued to compete well but were almost undone after the referee awarded a soft free-kick on the edge of the box. The resulting free kick was dipping under the bar but Martin Bruce pulled off a sensational finger tip save onto the crossbar. Alleyns looked bright on the break and there were a couple of off-side decisions that went our way which looked close and would have resulted in one-on-ones but on the balance of play we deserved our lead. The pivotal moment however came when the Alleyns striker burst through on goal chipped the ball past Martin Bruce and with the oppo's striker looking certain to tap the ball into an open net. Super-Webbo came from nowhere to reach the ball first and somehow end up winning a free-kick. It was a brilliant piece of defending from a player who this season has become the most consistent performer in our team....and yes it is for being consistently good!!

As the second half wore on Cars began to press for a second. After a nice passing move on the edge of the box Dave Tilley played the ball into the path of Webbo, bursting forward, and he struck the ball beautifully but just inches too high. Moments later a Clare corner was curling goalwards but the keeper palmed it to safety, but the resulting corner from Dave Tilley caused confusion in the Alleyns box and after Andy Taylor had seen his shot cleared off the line, Tom Ritchie swung his left foot hopefully at the ball and leathered it into the top left hand corner off the defenders head.

The second half began with Alleyns carving out a great chance to pull one back when their striker went through one on one and with Martin Bruce doing his Kamikaze charge out of his goal, the Old Boy striker completely botched his attempted chip. That said the best chances of the half all fell to Carshalton with James Horton twice surging forward from left back, picking up great through balls from (i'm still guessing Dave Tilley or maybe Adam Fisk or was it Andy Taylor..Oh I don't know!). On the first occasion he took a touch, waited for the keeper to sell himself, picked his spot and missed the left hand post by 5 feet. On the second occasion he sensibly opted for power rather than placement and this time struck the inside of the right post with the ball rebounding straight back across to him. Minutes later Adam Taylor burst through but saw his shot tipped onto the post.

All in all it was very professional and hard working performance by a Carshalton side against a decent Alleyn Old Boys team with the match played in an excellent spirit. Now the 1st XI head to Lloyds TSB next Saturday where 3 points will see us go into the Christmas break at worst second in the table and hopefully on top. Man of the match was Webbo, again, and the whole team would like to thank Alex Corner for his excellent contribution to our great start this season and wish him the best of luck on his three month sex-tour to China....oh apparently its a skiing job in Canada. Not quite as fun but certainly less sleazy.

Alexandra Park 1 Old Stationers 1

(From Old Stationers website)

A very well earned point away against one of our local rivals on a very difficult pitch which cut up badly as the match wore on. The main plus points were the commitment shown by all our players especially in a very tight game, and having the courage and belief to come back from a goal down, conceded with only 20 minutes left.

Our equaliser 10 minutes from time was fashioned by Matt Taylor's inch perfect through ball which allowed Raf Anthony to use his speed to out pace the AP defence before being bundled over in the penalty area. Tom Jackson stepped up to take the resulting penalty and expertly placed the ball just inside the post.

The last few minutes tested the nerves with both sides having chances to win it but in the end a draw seemed a fair result.

Man of the match was Mark Golding who had an outstanding game at right back both in a defensive capacity and as a threat going forward.

East Barnet Old Grammarians 2 HSBC 1

(From EBOG Newsletter)

The 1st's started their game against HSBC in fine style moving swiftly to a 2-0 lead and looked like easily getting 5 or 6. It wasn't so much that HSBC stepped up their game but more that the 1sts slackened off. Chances weren't converted with the ease of recent weeks but despite that we still took all the points.

The 1sts will need to recapture their cutting edge against stiffer opposition but with their 5th win on the bounce (since Steve Weldon moved back into defence) they are now clear title contenders having moved into 3rd place.

Congratulations to Richard Barker and Nick Page who have steered the side excellently to recovery since the debacle at Old Esthameians. They appear to have learned lessons and have a great team spirit. They are not prima donnas either as they sweep up the changing rooms better than most teams!

AFA Senior Cup

Old Esthameians 1 Old Parkonians 4

(From Old Parkonians website)

After the controversial postponement of last weekend's AFA Senior cup match, Old Parkonians made the short trip to Wadham Lodge to play Old Esthameians in the rearranged fixture for a place in the last 16. With Rob Tromans, Dominic Dowling, Rich Tromans & Stuart Knapman all unavailable, Parks were testing the strength of this season's squad. James Brown and David Gallagher were called up for the first time in the squad of 12.

With the home team's pitch resembling a cabbage patch at the local allotment rather than a bowling green at the private members' club, Parks knew this match against higher league opposition represented their toughest test of recent weeks. Joe Huxley was moved into his more customary midfield role, with Chris Sharkey taking the place of Rob Tromans in the away side's attack.

Parks started the better of the two sides, with Owen Price prominent in the left back position, as the away side controlled proceedings with their short passing movements despite the poor conditions. Few chances were created as the Esthameians centre backs defended strongly and gave Sharkey little room to play.

With Parks conceding a number of set pieces, Esthameians' direct approach was beginning to gain parity in proceedings as their central midfielder started to dictate play. From a poor defensive clearance, the home side were awarded another corner that they took advantage of. From a low cross, their best player on the day volleyed past George Lysandrou in the Parks goal.

Parks immediately hit back. From neat footwork on the left-hand side, Sharkey's far post cross was superbly controlled by Brown. The right midfielder easily jinked past the opposition's defender before lashing the ball past the Esthameians goalkeeper for the equaliser.

On the balance of play, the score was a fair reflection of the 1st half. Parks knew where they needed to improve; reduce the number of set pieces conceded and pass the ball quicker in the opposition's defensive third.

However, Esthameians had their best period of the match in the opening fifteen minutes of the 2nd half and should have taken the lead. From a misdirected cross, the ball rebounded off the far post and from another long ball out of defence, the home side's young winger's effort was well saved by Lysandrou in the Parks goal.

With Brown injured, Gallagher was brought into Parks midfield and Dave Worthington switched to the right-hand side. This substitution assisted Parks as they maintained better possession of the ball and started to look the more dangerous of the two sides.

From a sweeping move, the third goal of the match was duly scored. Quick passing in the away side's midfield found Worthington on the right. He slotted through to Sharkey who cleverly found Chris Morgan on the left. The left winger hit a superb strike, lashing the ball into the roof of the net to give the Esthameians goalkeeper no chance.

Nevertheless, with 25 minutes left on the clock, there was still plenty of time for the home side to level the match. However, Parks started to look more composed in possession as Matt Martin, James Billingham, Dave Jones and Price defended stoutly in the away side's back four.

A great challenge from Jones in the Parks penalty area was correctly adjudged a clean tackle by the officials despite the home side's protestations. The resulting corner was chested off the line by Mark Jamieson at the near post to maintain Parks' slender goal lead.

The crucial third goal shortly arrived for Parks with 75 minutes on the clock. Tenacious play from Worthington on the right was rewarded with an excellently flighted cross being headed home by Gallagher to give the substitute his first goal for Parks.

Esthameians were getting desperate, with time running out on the clock. Parks were now in command as the home side struggled to create many clear-cut chances in the final quarter of the match. The away side wrapped proceedings up in the last five minutes with Gallagher the provider this time. His neat through-ball was coolly slotted home by Huxley to give the former Oxford Blue his first goal in the red and white of Parks.

Given the notable absentees in the Parks squad and the pitch conditions, this was a superb result for the away side. In recent seasons the direct approach of Esthameians would have been too much for the Parks to combat, but they were able to impose their play on the opposition and score goals at crucial times.

Parks continue on their road trip in AFA competitions as they will face SAL 1st Division opponents Old Owens in the last 16 of the AFA Senior cup on January 9th. This weekend, Parks return to league action as they face Old Lyonians in their first home league fixture of the season.

Old Ignatians 4 Weirside Rangers 0

(From Old Ignatians website)

Another good victory that puts us through to the last 16 of the AFA senior Cup. With Chris Lowry running late, Rory Brien was given a starting role up front to partner his brother Brendan.

We knew Weirside would be strong being from the SAL Premier division and for the first 15 minutes this proved to be the case. Weirside have some big strong players and they used this to their advantage as we struggled to get hold of the ball. Weirside created a few half chances that Martin and the defence dealt with and we got through their period of domination without conceding a goal.

As soon as we were able to keep hold of the ball, we got back into the game and turned in an excellent 30 minutes to finish the first half. On a fairly sticky surface, the side did well not to just lump the ball forward and our possession soon paid dividends. We were awarded a free kick about 25 yards out, and from the sideline it seemed that the Weirside keeper had taken up a position way too near the right hand post. Was this a bluff? Well if it was it worked in our favour as Steve Gallagher curled a superb free kick over the wall into the top left hand corner to put us one up. This was soon followed by a second goal when Rory was put through following a neat one-two on the half way line and finished well with only the keeper to beat.

We expected an onslaught from Weirside at the outset of the second half but this didn't materialize and we continued to play some decent football and the work rate off the ball was tremendous. About half way through the half, Rory turned sharply on the edge of the box and found the far corner of the net with a drive that went in off the foot of the post. This was soon followed by a fourth goal when big

brother Brendan scored from ten yards when he finished off after a goalmouth scramble following a corner.

Weirside, did hit the bar with a long range effort and had a couple of other half chances but we saw the game out to keep our first clean sheet of the season. This was well-deserved after a good performance against a decent side.

Confidence is high at the moment. Martin looks very solid in goal and Dan and Matt were very tight once again, winning important tackles and headers and also starting several counter attacks with their ability to bring the ball out of defence. They were ably supported by full backs Tom and Jim who covered well, got forward when they needed to and were relatively untroubled.

The midfield of Renaldo Stevie G, Steve F and Conor are working well as a unit and although they have always looked dangerous going forward, looked solid defensively today with tremendous workrate.

Rory and Brendan up front were a right handful and kept hold of the ball until they were supported and both deserved their goals for their efforts. James Kearns and Chris Lowry slotted into the side comfortably when they came on and the good football continued to flow.

Another good win, but plenty of hard matches ahead. At the moment everyone is confident, having a good laugh and enjoying the football – let's hope this continues in the Middlesex Cup against EBOG next week. EBOG are in the middle of a good run of wins so it will be a very tough game against an SAL team that are traditionally a strong outfit.

It was good to have the ref supported by two linesmen today, something we would like to experience more often if we do manage to achieve our main goal of getting back into the Premier. The cup runs are a bonus!

MOM to keeper Martin Steel this week – not solely for today's performance but for a level of consistency that has been maintained over a good few weeks now where he has kept us in the game on a number of occasions.

AFA Middlesex & Essex Senior Cup

Enfield Old Grammarians 2 Broomfield 5

(From Broomfield's website)

BROOMS STILL IN THE 'HUNT'

Broomfield's continuing AFA Cup exploits took them to nearby Enfield Chase where once Kings of England enjoyed their sport by hunting down the wild life that roamed the area. Brooms were in similar 'lethal' mode showing little mercy to Enfield Old Grammarians who were 'dispatched' with five 'rapier' like thrusts from a sparkling attacking display.

Brooms began the first half at a 'fair gallop' and were soon ahead when 'tormenter-in-chief' Tom Givens volleyed home the first of his 'brace of goals', a second quickly followed with Simon Pope skilfully completing a fine midfield move.

Brooms 'pack of baying' midfielders now had the 'scent of blood' in their nostrils and scurried about creating numerous chances that the home side did well to keep at bay, however they were laid completely helpless by the goal of the match when a wonderful passing move left the returning Scot Wallis with the simple task to side-foot home a third from close range.

The second half started in similar vein to the first and it was no surprise when Givens 'slashed' in a fourth goal after an accurate cross found him free on the far post, this reverse seemingly putting the game beyond Enfield. It is said beware a 'wounded animal' and so it proved as the home side 'lurched to life' scoring two quick fire goals after some indifferent defending by Brooms.

For a while Brooms seem to lose the 'scent of victory' and Enfield might have added a third. Fortunately Brooms were able to gain their poise and finished the last phase of the game with a 'flourish', forcing some good saves from the home goalkeeper, a further goal looked inevitable and it was left to Sam Donohue to administer the 'coup-de-grace' by firing home after a fine dribble by Floyd Nelson.

THE BLUE ONLOOKER

Old Owens 1 Crouch End Vampires 2

(From Crouch End Vampires newsletter)

What a day as we arrived the pitch looked terrific, lovely. The clubhouse anyone would have thought we were at home. They even had their own magician who kept finding footballs from nowhere and throwing them on the pitch.

It was a terrific surface to play football on and move the ball well but Owens were a good, quality side who countered well and looked dangerous on the break. It was a tight game with both sides looking very confident in their ability, that's what made the game so good. Both sides playing really well.

Owens went ahead with a tap in, the boys looked a bit shocked that we were 1-0 down. Then ten minutes later yes you guessed it the machine himself R. Pidgeon scored a great goal with a turn and shot on the edge of the box, his value must be at least 20,000,000, The Machine done well; The Machine is getting nearer to his target of twenty goals which has not been achieved in the first team for about 30 years (R Copeland, A Druce, J Whelan??? Ed).

Second half with injuries made us make some changes. Second half what I loved what I see, passion, desire, and togetherness. The boys wanted it so much we were just chasing everything shutting them down I don't think they knew what hit them.

The winner was scored by a player who works so hard for the team captain O'Neill, great work by Dawson on the right see him put the ball on the skippers right foot volley goal. From the minute he struck it top corner, the boys went mad. We held on to go through to the next round.

I will give my Man-of-the-Match to the all fourteen players, they showed what the Club is all about, honest, passion, commitment, loyalty, and good looks!! Well done boys proud of you all.

P.S. I would like to say thank you to Tom Pidgeon for making the subs at half time and giving me good advice on the line. Well done mate thanks for your help.

SAL Results

Senior Division One

Old Wilsonians	1 – 3	Old Salesians
West Wickham	2 – 2	Civil Service

Senior Division Two

BB Eagles	6 – 2	Kew Association
Carshalton	2 – 0	Alleyn Old Boys
East Barnet Old Grammarians	2 – 1	HSBC
Norsemen	4 – 0	Old Finchleians

Senior Division Three

Alexandra Park	1 – 1	Old Stationers
Bank of England	0 – 5	Old Lyonians
Merton	2 – 0	Ibis
Old Latymerians	4 – 1	South Bank Cuaco
Southgate Olympic	4 – 2	Old Westminster Citizens

Intermediate Division One

Winchmore Hill	3 – 2	Merton
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Junior Division One

Alleyn Old Boys	1 – 0	Kew Association
Carshalton	0 – 5	Winchmore Hill
Old Actonians Association	5 – 2	Old Westminster Citizens

Minor Division One

Alexandra Park 4	2 – 4	Civil Service 5
Old Actonians Association 5	0 – 1	Old Actonians Association 4
Old Owens 4	3 – 2	Winchmore Hill 4
Old Parkonians 4	0 – 2	Nottsborough 4
Polytechnic 4	3 – 1	Carshalton 4

Minor Division Two (North)

Alexandra Park 5	0 – 3	Winchmore Hill 5
Crouch End Vampires 4	3 – 4	East Barnet Old Grammarians 4
Norsemen 4	0 – 5	Norsemen 5
Southgate Olympic 4	4 – 2	Old Owens 5

Minor Division Three (North)

Norsemen 6	2 – 1	Broomfield 4
Old Finchleians 4	3 – 1	Old Finchleians 5
Old Stationers 4	5 – 4	East Barnet Old Grammarians 5

Minor Division Four (North)

Crouch End Vampires 7	4 – 2	Old Finchleians 6
Norsemen 8	6 – 2	Norsemen 7
Old Parkonians 6	2 – 4	Old Parkonians 7

Minor Division Five (North)

Old Finchleians 7	4 – 2	Broomfield 6
Old Parkonians 9	4 – 2	East Barnet Old Grammarians 7
Old Stationers 5	7 – 3	Winchmore Hill 10
Southgate Olympic 5	4 – 2	Alexandra Park 7

Other Selected Results**Amateur Football Alliance Senior Cup****Round Three**

Old Minchendenians	8 – 0	Lloyds TS Bank	
Hale End Athletic	2 – 1	Old Actonians Association	
Old Ignatians	4 – 0	Weirside Rangers	
Old Uffingtonians	5 – 5	Polytechnic	Polytechnic won on penalties
Old Esthameians	1 – 4	Old Parkonians	

Round Four – Saturday 9 January

Old Meadonians	v	Norsemen
Albanian	v	Honourable Artillery Company
Broomfield	v	Polytechnic
Wake Green	v	Winchmore Hill
Nottsborough	v	Old Parmiterians
Hale End Athletic	v	Old Ignatians
Old Owens	v	Old Parkonians
William Fitt	v	Old Minchendenians

Amateur Football Alliance Middlesex and Essex Senior Cup – Round Three

Enfield Old Grammarians	2 – 5	Broomfield
Old Meadonians	1 – 0	Old Aloysians
Old Owens	1 – 2	Crouch End Vampires
Old Danes	3 – 2	Winchmore Hill
Albanian	7 – 1	Old Brentwoods

Amateur Football Alliance Intermediate Cup

Old Aloysians	3 – 1	Sinjuns Grammarians
Civil Service	3 – 2	West Wickham
Wake Green	1 – 2	Old Minchendenians
Old Parmiterians	5 – 0	Old Wilsonians
Old Grantonians	3 – 7	Norsemen
Honourable Artillery Company	3 – 2	Albanian
Old Finchleians	2 – 5	Nottsborough
Old Actonians Association	4 – 2	Enfield Old Grammarians

Amateur Football Alliance Middlesex & Essex Intermediate Cup

Icarus	7 – 0	Globe Rangers
Broomfield	0 – 2	Old Danes
Mayfield	1 – 0	Polytechnic
Hale End Athletic	post	Old Owens
Old Grantonians	3 – 7	Norsemen
Wood Green Old Boys	2 – 7	William Fitt

Amateur Football Alliance Surrey & Kent Intermediate Cup

Alley Old Boys	v	Old St. Mary's
Old Salesians	2 – 4	Carshalton

Amateur Football Alliance Junior Cup

Nottsborough	3 – 0	National Westminster Bank	
Albanian	5 – 0	Old Owens	
Norsemen	1 – 0	Economicals	
East Barnet Old Grammarians	1 – 2	Old Aloysians	
Old Esthameians	11 – 1	Silhill	
Weirside Rangers	w/o	Egbertians (withdrew)	
Old Meadonians	0 – 2	Old Stationers	
Old Cholmeleians	2 – 2	Old Parmiterians	Old Cholmeleians won on pens

Amateur Football Alliance Senior Novets Cup

Crouch End Vampires 5	1 – 1	Leyton County Old Boys	
[Crouch End Vampires won 4 – 3 on penalties]			
Broomfield 5	2 – 3	Old Suttonians 5	
Old Edmontonians 5	3 – 2	Polytechnic 5	
Old Salvatorians 5	3 – 0	Old Sedcopians 4	
Old Camdenians 4	1 – 3	Old Manorians 5	
Parkfield 5	3 – 2	Enfield Old Grammarians 5	

Amateur Football Alliance Intermediate Novets Cup

South Bank Cuaco 6	1 – 4	Polytechnic 6	
Civil Service 6	10 – 2	Old Aloysians 6	
Albanian 6	3 – 2	Old Actonians Association 6	
BB Eagles 6	2 – 3	HSBC 6	
Old Suttonians 6	7 – 1	East Barnet Old Grammarians 6	
Old Owens 6	2 – 2	Old Wokingians 5	
[Old Wokingians won 4 – 2 on penalties]			
Winchmore Hill 6	10 – 1	Crouch End Vampires 6	

Amateur Football Alliance Junior Novets Cup

Old Parmiterians 7	w/o	East Barnet Old Grammarians 9 (withdrew)	
Old Actonians Association 11	0 – 0	Old Actonians Association 8	
[Old Actonians 11 won 1 – 0 on penalties]			
Winchmore Hill 8	1 – 6	Polytechnic 7	
Lloyds TS Bank 8	2 – 4	Polytechnic 8	
Old Actonians Association 7	2 – 2	Old Parkonians 8	
[Old Actonians 7 won 4 – 2 on penalties]			
Old Wokingians 7	2 – 8	Carshalton 7	
Kew Association 7	0 – 2	Old Wokingians 6	
Winchmore Hill 9	1 – 2	Winchmore Hill 7	

Amateur Football Combination

Premier

Bealonians	4 – 1	Old Hamptonians	
Old Parmiterians	3 – 3	Clapham Old Xaverians	

Division One

Old Challoners	1 – 2	Centymca	
Sinjuns Grammarians	2 – 2	Old Salvatorians	
UCL Academicals	4 – 2	Old Belgravians	

Division Two

Economicals	2 – 2	Old Meadonians 2	
Old Pauline	5 – 4	Southgate County	

Arthurian League

Premier Division

Old Salopians	0 – 2	Old Harrovians	
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Division One

Old Haileyburians	1 – 0	Old Radleians	
Old Reptonians	2 – 8	Old Malvernians	
Old Tonbridgians	0 – 4	Old Etonians	
Old Wykehamists	1 – 2	Old Chigwellians	

Arthur Dunn Cup

Old Aldenhamians	2 – 1	Old Bradfieldians	aet (0 – 0)
Old Carthusians	8 – 1	Old Kings Scholars	
Old Kings (Wimbledon)	6 – 1	Old Wellingburians	

Wake Green v Winchmore Hill

AFA Senior Cup

Saturday 9 January

If anyone wishes to travel to Wake Green by coach please contact [Chris Langford](#) at The Club. The coach will leave Winchmore Hill between 8 and 8.30 am arriving at the ground in sufficient time for the players to relax and prepare for the game.

There is a pub just down the road from the ground for spectator's refreshment after a tiring journey!

Cost will be approximately £10 per head depending on numbers.

From way back—

This publication is personal to the writer and contributors and does not necessarily reflect the views of the Winchmore Hill Cricket Club or any of its sections.

Send match reports and articles for publication to whcc2@tiscali.co.uk to arrive by midday on Wednesday.

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