

Amateur Football Combination Report – 31st March 2007

In the London Old Boys Challenge Cup Final, Centymca overcame Old Wokingians, superbly hosted at Old Dorkinians' Pixham Lane ground on a warm but windy day. Centymca opened the scoring after fifteen minutes as Darren Stalger headed home a bouncing ball. On the half hour Centymca carved out an excellent opportunity to extend their lead as Chris Lamb found Mark Podmore with a superb long ball, only to see the chance superbly saved by Tom Jones. Soon after, Centymca did extend their lead, a free kick from 25 yards out being blocked, but Stalger latched onto the loose ball and fired home. Just before half time, Centymca made it three as Podmore's corner was headed home by Benny Daniel. In the second half, Wokingians came out all guns blazing, and looked likely to get back into the game, with Richie Gallagher terrorising the Centymca defence. Finally, after seventy minutes, a cross was punched out by Dave Chatwin, but Mark Jackson volleyed home from the edge of the area to reduce the lead. Wokingians continued to press, but further good saves from Chatwin kept them at bay to ensure Centymca ran out worthy 3-1 winners.

In the AFA Middlesex/Essex Intermediate Cup Final, Leyton County Old Boys deservedly beat Old Owens 3-1 to win the trophy. Leyton County had much the best of the first half, despite playing against the wind, and opened the scoring after 15 minutes as Wesley Griffin latched onto a through ball to fire home. Owens fought back, and on the half hour, Paul Presley equalised, beating two defenders before lofting the ball over the keeper. Leyton immediately fought back, and within five minutes had restored their lead as Darren Coke fired home from 25 yards. Into the second half, and Owens looked much stronger, but Leyton weathered the early storm and on 77 minutes sealed the game as Terry Williams fired home from the middle of the penalty area to clinch the trophy.

In the AFC Premier Division, Southgate County found themselves drinking at the last chance saloon needing a win over UCL Academicals to avoid near certain relegation. The first half was even, with Accies indebted to Mark Dawson for a point blank save after five minutes, and then taking the lead when Rick Hirst's cross was nodded across the goal by Steve Hair for Lloyd Vanson to poke home. The second half was all Accies, Innis Pirrie extending the lead with his third 30+ yarder of the season, quickly followed by one-on-ones converted by Ned Carabine and Vanson. With seven minutes to go, Southgate pulled one back through a John Morris penalty, but Accies quickly hit back through Greg Blake and in the last minute Vanson completed his hat-trick to complete a 6-1 thumping.

After numerous cup games, Honorable Artillery Company finally returned to league action, playing catch-up in the title chase, and ran out comfortable 3-0 winners over Albanian. HAC opened the scoring through Carl Chapple with a far post header following a cross from Simon Ball. In the second half they made the points safe through Steve Onyems, sublimely lifting the ball over the oncoming keeper from 15 yards and then Chapple scrambled home his second to complete the scoring.

Old Meadonians travelled to Bealonians looking to eliminate the hosts from title contention, and jumped out to a 3-0 half time lead with the wind, through goals from Kevin Smith, Colin Hawkins and Leon Smith. With the result effectively decided, the second half saw little action, though Mark Churchill grabbed a consolation for Bealonians with five minutes to go to make the final score 3-1.