

Amateur Football Combination Report – 7th April 2007

The AFC Representative side played their annual fixture against Yorkshire Old Boys at Latymer Old Boys FC, and in a game dominated by two defences, the score finished 1-1 enabling the AFC to retain the Hildersley Trophy, having drawn in 2006 and won back in 2005, to complete an unbeaten season. Yorkshire Old Boys opened the scoring after half an hour, Chris Sayers dropping a cross at his feet, and David Ashmoor reacted quickest to tuck home. In the second half the AFC fought back, Dwayne Rhone looked likely to score only to see his shot headed off the line, and with five minutes to go the AFC finally equalised when a series of corners David Laird of Aloysians smashed home a loose ball for a deserved equaliser.

In the Premier Division Bealonians hosted Honourable Artillery Company, with both sides playing catch-up following long cup runs and needing to win to maintain their title challenges. The first half was scoreless, with John Butler making a couple of sharp saves in the Bealonian goal, and Greg Smith matching him at the other end. Into the second half and Bealonians started to look the likeliest to score, halfway through finally converting their pressure into the opening goal, as Ian Sawyer picked up a long ball, and crossed it where Carl Taylor bundled the ball home. HAC fought back looking for an equaliser, but with five minutes to go were caught on the break as a long ball from Gary Bryson fed Ian Sawyer who crossed to the back post for Darren Gallery to nod home and seal a 2-0 win.

In a clash of Senior Two title contenders, Old Suttonians hosted Clapham Old Xaverians and ran out comfortable 4-1 winners scoring all their goals in the first half. Sutts took the lead after five minutes, as Dan Smith met Steve Thompson's near post corner to head home. Fifteen minutes later Smith added his second, pouncing on a goal-mouth scramble to fire home off the post. On the half hour Smith completed his hat-trick, tucking home a pull-back from Thompson, and before halftime scored his fourth heading home a Dave Houch cross. The second half was more even, Clapham reducing the deficit through Rio Bogle, and should've scored a second when Bogle was denied from the penalty spot by Chris Parlett.

Mill Hill Village comfortably beat Old Manorians at home to maintain their challenge in Senior 3 North. Manorians came out of the blocks quickest, going ahead after twenty minutes through a Paul Keegan penalty. Village immediately hit back, also scoring from the spot through Steve Hurd, and quickly added a second through Bese Meridi to give them a narrow halftime lead. In the second half Village stepped up a couple of gears, Chris Williams scoring a brace and Steve Copney adding a fifth goal to give Village a convincing 5-1 win and move them up to second place.

In Intermediate West, Old Kolsassians continued their promotion push with a hard fought victory over Old Manorians Reserves. Mike Richards set Kolsassians on their way after Michael McVeigh's through ball had opened up the defence, and extended their lead as Sam Garvel's speculative 45 yard lob from a free kick was lost in the sun by the Manorians goalkeeper, Lomdon Sibamdze, evading his late reaction. In the second half Manorians came back strongly, Khalid Hadi reducing the deficit, and in the final quarter of an hour, Manorians looked likely to equalise, but instead the match was decided when Richards broke away and tucked home to give Kolsassians a somewhat fortuitous 3-1 win.