

Amateur Football Combination Report – 16th February 2008

In a battle of title contenders Old Meadonians and Bealonians fought out a 1-1 draw at Riverside Lands. Bealonians looked dangerous early on, Ian Sawyer seeing a goal chalked off for offside after good work by Sam Bowen, but soon after opened their account as Sawyer broke through and lobbed stand-in keeper Dan Salanson from fifteen yards. Meads then squandered an excellent chance as John Reid denied Ed Glover on a one-on-one, but just before halftime Meads drew level, Peter Eguae winning a corner, which Glover swung in for Ally McCombe to power home. The second half saw few chances, Bowen again being denied by the offside flag, and Pete Lovell's free header from a corner was well saved by Reid as the sides settled for a share of the points to leave both in contention.

HAC travelled to title chasing Albanian and fell behind after quarter of an hour as Eamon Keane headed home from a corner for the only goal of a tight first half in windy conditions. As the second half progressed, HAC looked more and more dangerous, and with fifteen minutes to go finally equalised as Steve Onyans crossed from the left only to see it catch on the wind and float in at the back post. HAC had the momentum, and with five minutes to go thought they'd scored the winner as Steve Watson's cross was headed in by Stuart Holt, only to see it ruled out by referee Paul Fuller for offside. Reprieved, Albanian won a last minute corner, and Stephen Lenaghan rose above the crowd to head home and clinch a somewhat fortunate 2-1 victory to send them back to the top of the table.

Enfield Old Grammarians faced Old Hamptonians, and sneaked their second win of the season. Hamptonians opened the scoring after ten minutes, a long ball from Ian Gascoigne disappearing into the low sun and bouncing past Richard Glyn in the Grammarians goal. Within ten minutes Enfield were level, Lee Daley playing John Keohane through the middle who finished coolly past James Holdsworth. Just before halftime Matt Harrison could've retaken the lead for Hamps, only to see it chalked off for offside. The second half was tight, but Enfield clinched the points as Chris Johns crossed for substitute Adam Herron to head home and give Enfield a 2-1 win that continues their unlikely climb towards possible safety.

In the London Old Boys Cup Quarter Final, Old Aloysians sneaked a 2-1 win against Old Parmiterians. On a difficult surface, Parns took the lead as Brian Davis missed a simple header and Jamie Clark pounced to fire home. Aloysians equalised soon after as Dave Laird fired home off the far post, and soon after took the lead as Parmiterians keeper came for a cross and missed, Laird powering home his second of the game. The second half was scrappy, with Aloysians struggling to find a third which would seal the game, and in the last fifteen minutes Parmiterians looked likely to equalise, but Aloysians held firm to send them through to their third semi final of the season.

Also in quarter final action, UCL Academicals travelled to Old Wilsonians and ran out 1-0 winners. Early on Neil Gillard went close twice, before Accies finally opened the scoring as Ian Roberts met Rick Hirst's corner to head home, and whilst Wilsonians looked dangerous on the break, Accies defence well marshalled by Innis Pirrie and Dan Chantler held firm, and Accies ran out winners more comfortably than the scoreline suggested.