

Amateur Football Combination Report – 8th December 2007

The only Premier Division game surviving the weather was the early kickoff at Old Hamptonians. Visiting HAC fell behind after an hour as Stuart Brownlie's cross was turned in by Matt Harrison. With an hour gone, HAC felt they should've had a penalty as Steve Onyans was pulled down by Will Spencer, but with Hamptonians fearing the worst, the appeals were turned away by unsighted referee Pat Morrissey. HAC continued to press, Paul Jarowicki seeing his shot rebound off the crossbar, and Colin Gardner almost equalising only to see James Holdsworth make a fine save. With play flowing from end to end, Harrison hit the post for Hamptonians and finally with ten minutes to go, HAC grabbed a deserved equaliser, Onyans turned on the edge of the area to fire home in the bottom left hand corner of the net. Although the draw was a fair result, both sides pressed for a winner, and with five minutes to go, HAC could've grabbed it as Onyans fired goalwards from six yards out only to see Paul Lemon block superbly to ensure a 1-1 draw and a share of the points.

In the London Old Boys Senior Cup UCL Academicals sneaked a 2-1 win against Fulham Compton Old Boys from Senior 3 South to reach the quarter finals in atrocious conditions. The game wasn't pretty, and it was no surprise when the opening goal came as Rick Hirst's corner was powered home at the near post by Neil Gillard, the only chance of the first half. The second half was more open, Accies peppering the Compton goal, but found keeper Mike Giddy in fine form, and as they became frustrated, Compton equalised as a charged down clearance fell invitingly to Tim Hayes who chipped the advancing Mark Dawson. Accies pressed for a winner, but with ten minutes left could've gone behind but a twenty yard deflected shot was tipped around the post by Dawson. Soon after Accies sealed the win, as Hirst burst into the penalty box only to be brought down, and Steve Hair stepped up to emphatically despatch the penalty.

In Senior 3 South Hampstead Heathens edged a tight game against Fitzwilliam Old Boys at New Beckenham. With driving rain sweeping from one end of the pitch, Hampstead Heathens grimly held on throughout the first half to keep the game scoreless, and within five minutes of the turnaround scored the game's only goal as Pete Crowe's through ball set free Adam Hill to slot home, and whilst Fitzwilliam fought to the end, neither side looked like to score and Heathens ran out 1-0 winners.

Wandsworth Borough faced leaders Centymca and opened brightly, Sean Jackson latching onto Jamie McNally's flick on to fire home from the edge of the area. Centymca quickly hit back, Mustafa Terriach scoring twice and Dom Graham adding a penalty to give the visitors a 3-1 half time lead. Into the second half and Wandsworth quickly narrowed the gap, McNally tucking home a penalty to reduce the deficit to one, but further goals from Dave Chatwin, a brace from Pete Littlefield and Terriach completing his hat-trick saw Centymca run out to a comfortable 7-2 victory.

In Senior 3 North, UCL Academicals Reserves won a hard fought game against youthful Old Kolsassians 2-1. Despite the pitch cutting up badly, both sides tried to play football, and Accies went close in the first half with Adam Parsons blasting against the bar and Mo Alvarez also going close. Surviving those chances, Kolsassians almost hit back against the run of play, and Mike McVeigh could've opened the scoring, beating the offside trap and firing past Aurelio Garcia de Sarasola only to see his shot just drift past the far post to leave the game scoreless at halftime. Into the second half and Accies finally opened the scoring after ten minutes, Parsons outpacing the defence to slot home, and they soon extended their lead through an Alvarez penalty. With Accies looking comfortable, Kolsassians pulled one back with quarter of an hour to go as Matt Burchill was caught in possession by Ross Freeman, and trying to recover pulled him down, allowing brother Mark Freeman to tuck away the penalty. Accies regrouped, and in the final minutes looked likelier to score as Lysander Bryant hit the post and Andy Crotty squandered a good chance.