

Amateur Football Combination Report – 17th January 2009

The Amateur Football Combination resumed after a three week break due to Christmas and frozen pitches, with a host of cup games.

Albanian travelled to Old Hamptonians, and were dominated from the outset with Hamps playing an extra man in midfield. On the half hour, Hamps made it count, as Brendan O'Brien brought down Chris Heritage, Richie Sexton converting the penalty. Just before halftime, Albanian almost drew level as Daniel Clancy fed Alex Cottini who fell under Will Spencer's challenge, but their appeals for a penalty were waved away.

Albanian pressed hard in the second half, Cottini and Eamonn Keane forcing good saves out of James Holdsworth, but with quarter of an hour left, Phil Caughter inswinging free kick evaded everyone to make it two, and as time ran out Nick Phelps caught Albanian on the break to finish neatly and give Hamptonians a somewhat flattering 3-0 win.

In Senior Two, HAC Reserves faced UCL Academicals Reserves, and quickly got on top, though only managed to create one clear-cut chance in the first half, as Gavin White managed to fire over from less than a yard. Accies turned round with the wind, but almost immediately fell behind as Kit Blackburn's long ball found Dave Benjamin who was given too much space in the box and turned to tuck home past Mark Dawson. With fifteen minutes left, Accies finally found their rhythm, Gareth Jones going close and Greg Smith saving well from Adam Parsons, but with five minutes left John Lohan missed a point blank header which seemed to take the fight out of Accies, and HAC hung on for a narrow 1-0 win.

In AFA Cup action, Old Meadonians travelled to Winchmore Hill and quickly fell behind to Rod Beya's clean finish. Meads hit back before half-time, Leon Smith finishing clinically following a mazy run. The second half was one-way traffic, Meads defending poorly, and Hill scoring quickly through Andy Barrell and Charles Matthews, before Beya and Barrell both added second goals to send the holders crashing out with a 5-1 drubbing.

Also in AFA action, UCL Academicals Firsts won a tight game against Old Actonians. Actonians had the best early chances, Rupert Neal keeping Accies in it with two superb saves. Just before halftime, Accies hit back, Steve Hair's cross to the far post converted by Dave Jenkin, and although Accies couldn't extend their lead, Kieron Jennings and Jenkin going close, the second half saw few alarms as Accies held on for a 1-0 win.