

## **OH FOOTBALLERS REPORT No 13**

OH footballers,

Firstly, a few social dates for your diaries. Come and support your club:

**FRI MAR 27TH - QUIZ NIGHT AT THE CLUBHOUSE**

**Results for Saturday 28th February:**

**First Team:**

Home v Parmiterians (League) 1-1 draw (?)

No report received.

Top scorer: Harrison 11, R Sexton 10

**Second Team:**

Away v Shene Old Grammarians (League) 2-2 draw (M Sexton 2)

At full-time on Saturday it was difficult to know whether to be satisfied or disappointed at the solitary point gained. On the one hand, we were twice losing on a horrible pitch with a number of regulars absent. On the other we were well on top for the final half hour and the opposition had been reduced to 10 after Shene's centre midfielder had been introduced to Nabby's studs. The truth was probably somewhere in between.

Having begun positively we proceeded throughout the course of the first half to contribute to our own downfall. The pitch was small and uneven and despite the warnings of Holty, we continued to try and play a short passing game that was always going to fail due to the conditions. Shene opened the scoring after about 15 minutes with a nice strike from outside the box. To be honest we were being out battled by the opposition and our equalizer probably came against the run of play. Following Benoit's knock-on, Linacre laid the ball onto Sexton on the edge of the six yard box. He still had it all to do though but superbly spun his man and arrowed the ball into the bottom corner. This should have been the catalyst for us to improve but we didn't and some uncharacteristic dithering in our defence allowed the centre-forward through on goal for an easy finish past Comber.

It took though some wisdom that only experience brings for us to turn the game around. Having brought himself on for the unfortunately injured Green, Holty brought Dan Sims into the middle of the park and put us 3 at the back. Immediately we looked more threatening as the centre-midfield trio were getting more space and time to send longer balls into the channels for Sexton et al to latch onto. Following a few near misses the equalizer arrived as Holty sent a peach of a ball over the right backs head, Gibson lofted it over the defender before nodding it into the path of Sexton who finished easily. Our tails were now up and we created numerous other opportunities in the half that went begging. The winning goal never came though and as we pushed

forward, it took a 1999 vintage wonder save from Comber to keep the scores level at the death.

A decent result as, to be fair to Shene, they were a better side than others in this league and should be higher up the table. However the two points lost probably ends any realistic chance we had of finishing in the top two.

Top scorers: A Dunn-Baker 14, M Sexton 9

**Team: Comber, Kavoussi, Sims, Dixon, Devlin, Linacre, Nabby, Green (Holt), Gibson, Sexton, Benoit.**

**Third Team:**

Away v Fulham Compton (League) 2-1 victory (Sekhon, Lissoire)

No report received.

**Team: Dix, Wilson, Wheeldon, Lemon, Baulk, Hinton, Barron, Sekhon, Battey, Lissoire, S Patel**

Top scorers: Barron 7, Wood 6

**Fourth Team:**

Home v Kolsassians II (League) 4-2 victory (White 2, Horne, Redding)

The 4th XI were looking to make it two wins back to back on Saturday and with a full squad that looked very strong on paper confidence was high. Hampton came flying out of the blocks, winning possession almost immediately from the Kolsassian kick off, forcing them deep into their own half and winning a throw in. This would set the tone for the rest of the first half with Hampton dominating the possession and creating the majority of the chances. There was some lovely link up play and passing movements, with Hampton playing much the better football.

Despite a plethora of chances Hampton were shocked to suddenly find themselves one-nil down with the Kolsassian's first attack of the game. They didn't let their heads drop and within minutes Andrew 'Eduardo' White had levelled the game with a finish from inside the six yard box. This restored confidence and Hampton finished the half how they started with the attack minded midfield creating several more decent chances. How they were not three or four ahead is anybody's guess but some credit must go to the Kolsassian's goalkeeper 'tiger' who had obviously been called down from the Vets team. Although small, not very svelte or in the first flush of youth he was always somehow in the right place and several fierce shots rebounded off his chest at point blank range.

At half time with the scores level the crowd, with an attendance of two (White and Ritchie Snr), would have been forgiven for being a little nervous with Hampton's tendency to be somewhat unconvincing in the second half,

possibly due to a lack of fitness... However, within minutes of kick-off Hampton were ahead through a goal from Horne.

A Rob Redding goal created by some good interlinking play on the left between Horne and White, looked to have put the game out of reach but as we all know the fourths don't like to make it too easy for themselves and a second Kolsassian's goal with about 25 minutes to go ensured a tense and nervy finish. The opposition came more and more into the game as Hampton flagged. Hampton's total football gave way to long balls up field as Kolsassians sought the equaliser. Player-manager Khanna made a good tactical decision and bought on Grothier to sure up the midfield and give the tiring defence some support.

Ironically, it was a long ball through the venerable opposition defence that finally settled the game in the dying minutes, as White slotted home Hampton's fourth goal to complete his own fairytale comeback, scoring two goals on his return to action eleven months after a career threatening leg break.

Overall it was a good performance from Hampton, they were by far the better team and if the shaky second half displays can be eliminated they will continue to push on for promotion in the weeks to come.

Top Scorers: Horne 19, Greenidge 4

### **Vets Team**

No fixture