

OH FOOTBALL REPORT No 2

Results for Saturday 20th September:

First Team:

Home v Old Meadonians XI (League): 3-2 Victory (R Sexton 3)

The second game of the season saw OH host our local rivals for a match that lived up to expectations. On the manicured Dean Road surface we started brightly, moving the ball well to push Meads back into their own half and caused several concerns. However, despite hitting the post at the end of a 10+ pass move, OH finished the first half 0-1 down due a short lapse in concentration at a throw-in that culminated in a well finished half chance by Meads.

Gower encouraged us at half time to continue playing our football and insisted that it would see us through. Within 25-mins of the restart OH were 2-1 up, the second being a great passing move that ripped Meads wide open. As expected Meads continued to battle and having reshape managed to score from a long driven free-kick with 5-mins remaining. OH dug deep and when Chris Heritage was brought down in the Meads box, Richard Sexton stepped up to complete his hat-trick and seal OH their second 3 points of the season.

A great result and another step forward for this new look squad.

Team: James Holdsworth, Paul Gower, Graham Taylor, Adam Calvert, Phil Caughter, Ed Holdsworth, Matt Brunwin, Richard Sexton, Mat Simms, Chris Heritage, Tom Jackson, Phil Eckalamo, Toby Green

Second Team:

Home v Old Dorkinians (Cup) 3-0 Victory (M Sexton 2, A Dunn-Baker)

This was another solid performance from the team, despite a number of changes. The defence performed well again, keeping the drawbridge up and the trellis down at 'Fortress' Dean Road. Dan Sims is settling into his different role at centre back, ably assisted by Stan. The midfield had too much energy for the opposition and were allowed too much space. Phelps thrived on the room and was a handful all day. The difference between the sides really showed in attack though, where the pace of Mickey and Alan proved too much for the aged defence of the oppo. 2 goals for Mickey, and one for Alan were the least they deserved, and 3-0 was the least we deserved. Had Nabby brought his shooting boots it could have been a lot more (I think he lost them years ago though). Mickelham await in the next round.

Team: Jimmy, Dave K, Stan, Dan Sims, Gibbo, Dave Holt, Dunc, Nabby, Phelps, Mickey, Alan D-B. Subs: Marky T, Tom, Steve

Third Team:

Away v Old Paulines (League) 3-1 Defeat (Wood)

Defeat is not something that has been experienced for those of us lucky enough to turn out for the OH3's over the last few years, but that is what we came away with on a sunny, late Autumn Saturday in Thames Ditton.

This was a good competitive game of football between two battling teams. On the day, Old Paulines were just a bit faster, a bit more determined and a bit more clinical than the OH. Not an easy report to write this one as the game just seemed to slip from our fingers.

After a bright start which saw OH pass the ball well from the back and force several corners, things started to go wrong. Paulines took the lead from a long throw routine which saw their forward (who was actually an Old Hamptonian - the traitor!) run from the half way line, evade Baulk's late challenge and slip the ball past Dix into the side-netting.

Not a lot happened for the next 45 minutes, until a powerful Pauline counter attack resulted in a penalty decision when Flynn made a desperate, last man challenge deep in his own area. Paulines made no appeal for a penalty but the referee (who generally had an excellent game) saw it differently and the ball was struck firmly into the bottom corner from the resulting spot-kick. A few minutes later a Pauline corner resulted in their third goal. A firm header hit the near post and then the flailing Patel and the ball dribbled agonisingly over the line.

The threes finally got into the game with about 8 minutes left when a partially cleared header from an OH corner was returned into the area by Battey. Wheeldon, who had called for more aggression at half time, clattered into the keeper and defender as they attempted to clear and Wood pounced to head the ball into the net via the bar.

The final whistle saw the Thirds disappointed but pleased with their overall performance and looking for a better result in the AFA cup against Crouch End Vampires on Saturday. Another positive was seeing veteran Thirds player Ollie Flynn make his first competitive appearance for several seasons after several bizarre and sometimes hilarious injuries. Welcome back Flynny.

Team: Dix, Wilson, Baulk (Flynn), Wheeldon, K Patel, Taylor, Gorczynski, Hinton, Battey, Macdonald, Wood

Fourth Team:

No fixture – season starts on 27th September.

Vets Team

No Fixture