

## OH FOOTBALL REPORT No 3

### Results for Saturday 27th September:

#### First Team:

Home v Old Parmiterians (League): 0-0 Draw

As Calv, Jacko and Rob will testify Parmiterians is a tough place to travel at the best of times and starting with 10 men was always going to present its challenges. Opting for a mainly long-ball attack Parmiterians started brightly and pressed hard, but in well organised fashion Hampton defended with earnest and were able to break with pace. While goalless the first half was not absent from chances with Parmiterians coming closest from a well worked corner that culminating in a 20-yard drive.

The days blistering heat continued during the second half and a relentless effort from all saw Hampton play further up field. Several half chances were created but stern defending from both sides saw the scoreline remain goalless. In summary, a competitive game played in very hot conditions against a well organised and determined opposition. A well earned point for Hampton taking the tally to 7 from 9 - a very good start.

We now look forward to Saturday and welcoming last seasons Premier League winners, Aloysians, to fortress Dean Rd. A big test that this new squad is very much capable of passing with honours. Roll on Saturday.

**Team: James Holdsworth, Paul Gower, Graham Taylor, Richard Blakey, Adam Calvert, Phil Caughter, Matt Brunwin, Mat Simms, Dan Simms, Rob Dixon, Leon Kew, Tom Jackson, Phil Eckalamo**

#### Second Team:

Home v Ealing Association (Cup) 3-1 Victory (D, Louis, M Sexton, A Dunn-Baker)

Following two successive 3-0 victories the 2's turned up at Dean Road in bullish mood and expecting to progress into the next round of the Middlesex/Essex intermediate cup. They did not disappoint. In all truthfulness the 3-1 scoreline did not truly highlight the difference in class between the two sides - there really was no danger that Hampton were not going to win this game. That said, the performance was far from seamless and there were areas that could be improved, however there was also a feeling that this side could have moved up a few gears if it had been required of them.

With Dan Sims and Rob Dixon stepping up to the 1's there was another reshuffle in the defence with Neil Sainsbury starting at right-back and Captain Paul Dunn-Baker making a very welcome first competitive appearance of the season at centre-half. The midfield and forward lines are starting to have a familiar feel and once again the substitute's bench looked extremely strong.

The OH begun somewhat sluggishly in the afternoon sun and Ealing fashioned an early chance from which they might have done better. However the OH midfield soon began to control the game and for the remainder of the half it was all Hampton. Following some missed half chances, Alan Dunn-Baker, who enjoyed an excellent afternoon, skinned his man down the right before floating in a cross for **Duncan Louis** to expertly direct into the top left stanchion with his head. Not long after, Phelps found himself in possession on the left, ghosted past two challenges before pulling to back for **Alan Dunn-Baker** to finish with aplomb. Half-time came with the OH very much in the ascendancy and captain Dunn-Baker was a satisfied man.

To be the honest the second half was a bit of a non-event. Hampton continued to have more of the ball but created few real chances, a scuffed Sexton shot and a somewhat speculative effort from Gibson aside. The third goal did come though. Naidu unleashed one of his Rory Delap-esque throws from the right, Threlfall rose above his man to flick the ball on and **Sexton** rifled it home from 8 yards. 3-0 and game over.

To their credit, Ealing didn't throw in the towel and scored a consolation goal towards the end. Holty uncharacteristically gave the ball away in his own half, the ball ended at their forward's feet and he somewhat fortuitously looped the ball over Comber.

So a comfortable victory for the 2's and their 100% start to the season continues. There will though be tougher challenges ahead and the team will need to look to raise their performance in weeks to come.

However the players are aware of this and are looking forward to this challenge. It's been a great start but there are better things to come from this team.

**Team: Comber, Sainsbury, Stan, Paul Dunn-Baker (c) (Dave K), Gibson, Phelps (Hoity), Nabby, Duncan Louis, Threfall, Alan Dunn-Baker (Naidu), Sexton**

### **Third Team:**

Home v Crouch End Vampires (AFA Cup 1<sup>st</sup> Rd) 6-4 Defeat AET (Gorczyński, Kavoussi, Shearing, Lissoire)

The long standing OH3's AFA cup hoodoo continues for another year after the thirds were bundled out at the first hurdle by lower league opposition once again.

The absence of no fewer than 8 regulars gave some new faces the chance to make an impact, however, this make-shift team started on the back foot, conceding after just a few minutes when a cross looped over stand in keeper Ninj and into the far corner.

The thirds responded by playing some of the worst football that they have produced in a long time. The laboring opposition applied no pressure on the ball, yet Hampton players making poor choices or passes found Crouch End feet again and again. After about 15 minutes Crouch End had contrived to miss a penalty and blaze over unopposed from about 5 years after desperately poor play on the left. It was a day when only solo efforts seemed likely to work for the OH3's and Gorczyński came up with the first, sliding the ball low to the keepers left after a good jinking run. Minutes later Kavoussi coolly and brilliantly lobbed the keeper from outside the box after breaking Crouch End's offside trap. 2-1 up, and that's how it stayed until half time.

Unfortunately, the second half brought more of the same rubbish that OH had served up in the first. Poor defending and a slow miss hit shot was enough to wrong foot the hapless Ninj and equal the scores. This time Lissoire decided to make something happen and turned his man before hitting a firm, low shot into the side of the net. At this point, it seemed that even though things could not get much worse in terms of the performance, OH would run out the winners of a poor game. But it could. With about 10 minutes remaining, Crouch End scored the worst goal of the lot as far as this writer is concerned. Typifying OH play, the ball was carelessly and un-necessarily given away, a slow lumbering run beat two of our players and a poor, bobbling cross was poked home by Crouch End's immobile forward who had eluded two static defenders. Total, utter rubbish.

I don't want to go into the detail of the rest of it, as it is just more of the same. The first period of extra time was goal-less and then in the second, Crouch End scored directly with another cross, with their one decent strike following good movement and then at the end, finally tiring of the multiple, hapless OH attempts to clear the ball from the box, a sixth. Shearing made a good run and strike to bring the score back to 4-5, but it was not enough.

The plus side to this was the introduction of the 5 players making their debuts. All I say can say lads is that it is not usually like this!

**Team: Ninj, Flynn (Hatton), Baulk, Wheeldon. K Patel, Hinton, Battey (Shearing), Gorczyński, Wood, Kavoussi, Lissoire (Winkworth)**

### **Fourth Team:**

Away v Manorians (League) 6-2 defeat (Horne, Noonan)

After a poor first half, which saw us go into half time 3 - 0 down, we dominated the second half creating numerous chances. A fast break resulted in Stuart Horne finishing confidently to get us back to 3 - 1, however we couldn't convert the next 20 minutes of solid pressure into goals. A crazy 5 minutes followed, which resulted in us conceding 3 goals in quick succession. We then continued to dominate the second half and finally were rewarded when Noonan beat 2 men and fired home from close range.

All in all a disappointing result but plenty of positives can be taken.

Man of the Match: Adam Williams

**Team: Neil Khanna, Alex Ross, Micky Rees, Giles Green, Matthew Todd, Tom Lloyd, Adam Williams, Dan Midwinter, Oliver Noonan, Alan Shenton, Stuart Horne**

## **Vets Team**

Home v NPL (Friendly) 3-1 victory

There are not many games where OH are intellectually out gunned but playing against NPL one must steer clear of phrases such as "its not rocket science ref" just in case its met by a lecture on just exactly what is. OH took to the field in the beautiful setting provided by the grounds of NPL on a lovely Sunday morning with spirits high having won their first friendly two weeks earlier against a stronger opposition in the form of Ascot. 2 new players performed admirably as did macca up front whose tireless work supplanted the legs of 54 years old dave carrier still holding the gauntlet in mid field. Early pressure from oh saw a number of chances wasted by poor finishing until shortly before half time simon emeny delivered a trade mark cross from the right which hookey directed beautifully into the far corner of the net.

The second half continued along the same lines with hookey putting OH 2 0 ahead, this prompting a revival from NPL whose centre forward broke through the middle of the OH defence to drive a shot into the top left corner past the outstretched arms of ninj.

Hookey took the gloves for the last 15 as ninj joined the mid field. He soon proved playing in goal is not as easy as it looks by pushing an NPL shot onto the post then attempting a quick throw which went straight to the feet of the same player who hit it right back at him. This was one of those moments where 20 players watched in puzzled amusement as hookey and the NPL centre forward played what looked like their own little game for what seemed a timeless eternity. The last few minutes saw another great combination down the right side between adam and simon, the former delivering a cross met by none other than dave carrier. Opinions differ as to how he got in the box whether by youthful sprint or if he was simply too tired to change round at half time. Whichever he drove the ball low under the approaching NPL keeper to finish off a very enjoyable Sunday morning game.

**Team: Ninj, Andy Collins, Graham Parsons, Alex Pursey, John McNally, Dave Carrier, Adam Robinson, Simon Emeny, James Hooke, Richard Jones, Corin Jennings**