

## OH FOOTBALL REPORT No 4

### Results for Saturday 4th October:

#### First Team:

Home v Old Aloysians 1st XI (League): 1 - 1 draw (Calvert - yes Calvert)

Hampton started with confidence keeping and moving the ball well to create several half chances against last years league champions. Our starting midfield five of Caughter, E.Holdsworth, Brunwin, R.Sexton and Kew proving to be a superior combination of pace, power and quality that enabled us to retain possession and in the main control the first half. Defensively we were also strong with the only incident of note being a well worked corner from which a glancing Aloysian header returned (fortunately) back from the stanchion.

The half-time score of 0-0 perhaps not completely reflective of our marginal dominance.

Despite continued and relentless front running from Hampton's strikers (Jackson and M.Sexton) the deadlock remained and with 30min to play Gower turned to the bench for a spark of inspiration. He was not disappointed by what has to be the strongest ever group of Hampton subs comprising Blakey, Spencer and M.Simms, each of whom made an impact. However, with 10 mins remaining an Aloysians striker was fortunate not to be called up for offside and went onto score. Last season this would have been the final straw in a well matched encounter - not anymore! Hampton rallied and pushed the opposition back and from one resultant corner Calvert converted to level the score. The closing minutes saw Hampton come close to winning with a well struck free kick just missing the target having beaten the keeper

The squad continues to grow with confidence and rightly so. We travel away to London Colney on Sat to play UCL where 3 points remains our aim.

Good work boys.

**Team: James Holdsworth, Paul Gower, Graham Taylor (Richard Blakey), Adam Calvert, Phil Caughter, Matt Brunwin, Edward Holdsworth, Richard Sexton, Leon Kew (Mat Simms), Tom Jackson (Will Spencer), Micky Sexton.**

#### Second Team:

Away v Mickleham Old Boxhillians (Cup) 4-1 Defeat (A. Dunn-Baker)

They say a week's a long time in football and never has that proved truer than on Saturday in the Surrey countryside. Having been confident for the season ahead the Saturday before, the 2s threw in the sort of performance that made some of the more senior members of the team recall the old days of 3 or 4 seasons before. Everything that could go wrong on Saturday did go wrong: players turning up at Dean Road instead of Dorking, cars turning up at the hospitality venue instead of the ground, players absent for various reasons, a horrible pitch and worst of all, no recognized keeper.

The starting eleven contained no fewer than 5 changes from the week before but even so, Hampton should have had enough to see off this opposition. The game started evenly with the 2's probably having the better of it and Phelps, Alan Dunn-Baker and Naidu looking like they were going to enjoy the significant space that Mickleham were affording them. However, an unfortunate free-kick conceded on the edge of the box gave the opposition their first chance at goal. The free-kick was hit well and took a slight deflection which deceived temporary custodian Paul Dunn-Baker and the ball ended up in the back of the net. Hampton did though hit straight back and Alan Dunn-Baker finished well from inside the box having been set up by Shearing. From there, we really should have won the game but it wasn't to be. Mickleham retook the lead soon after following some sloppy Hampton defending. A melee in the box resulted in a high ball that Paul Dunn-Baker fumbled, unluckily for us the ball bounced off the cross bar and the Mickleham right midfielder had the simplest of tap-ins. The rest of the half was fairly uneventful until the opposition goalkeeper, who had looked rather dodgy until that point, pulled off a wonder save from Phelps's well struck free-kick.

Hampton played better in the second half and were on top for 30 minutes. Mickleham were visibly tiring and it seemed that if Hampton could equalize then the floodgates might open, but the goal never came. Then came the moment that probably summed up Saturday perfectly. A harmless cross looked like it was going to be intercepted easily by Dixon but a Hampton player got there first, tried to head it off for a corner but, almost inevitably, the ball ended up in the corner of his own net. A horribly unfortunate incident but one that was in

keeping with the whole day. As Hampton bombed forward they left acres of space at the back and Mickleham's slightly rotund centre-forward took full advantage and headed in a fourth at the death.

There wasn't much to say after the game but captain Paul Dunn-Baker was keen to for us to get this game out of our system quickly and be back on top form for the tough visit of Centymca this week. Final word and thanks must go to Paul Dunn-Baker and Holty for offering to do a half each in goal. There were no other volunteers and it is extremely unenviable task at the best of times. Jimmy – get well soon son!

**Team: Paul Dunn-Baker (c), Hatton, Dixon, Sainsbury, Gibson, Shearing (Green), Holt, Nabby, Phelps, Alan Dunn-Baker, Naidu.**

### **Third Team:**

Home v Old Bromleians (League) 3-2 Victory (Wood 2, Lopez)

Following last week's Cup disasters, the 3s were back to something like full-strength to welcome Bromleians to Dean Road. And back to something like normal service.

On a great surface and against game but limited opposition the 3s asserted themselves quickly. Barron, making his first appearance of the season, didn't take long to form an effective central midfield partnership with Taylor, who went close early on after a slick move.

With the OH defence looking strong, it soon became clear that the OH match winner was lurking on the left flank. Lopez was having a field day, skinning his full-back time and again and delivering dangerously with both feet. Sure enough, it was a low Lopez cross that gave Wood the simplest of tasks on the half hour. 1-0.

It was no more than the 3s deserved as Wood hit the keeper's legs from 12 yards and was then scythed down when clean through as the 3s looked to put the game to bed.

Then, the sucker punch with 5 minutes of the half remaining as the OH failed to defend a Delap-esque long throw and conceded a thoroughly underserved equaliser. 1-1

Cue Lopez – turning his full-back inside out before cutting inside and belting an absolute beauty into the top corner a minute before the break. 2-1.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> half started cautiously but with the 3s looking like scoring more goals. A number of chances came and went and punishment arrived midway through the half as a bad individual mistake saw a decent strike parried by Dix into the path of the onrushing striker. 2-2.

Feeling an injustice looming, the 3s stepped it up again and Bauk, having a superb game, got down the left to cross low. A cheeky step over from Lopez and Wood was in front of his man to flick home at the near post. 3-2.

Despite the odd shaky moment against the long ball, the 3s held firm for an important and deserved victory.

**Team: Dix, Wilson (Flynn), Wheeldon, K Patel, Bauk, Hinton, Taylor, Barron, Lopez (Sekhon), Macdonald, Wood**

### **Fourth Team:**

Home v Vaughanians (League) 3-2 victory (Horne 2, Midwinter)

The Lions roared out of the blocks, immediately taking control early with some superb passing football that Iain Maclean would have been proud of. An early break down the left found Irons with the time and space to find Midwinter with a pin point cross which he buried with consummate ease with a fine left footed strike. Minutes later, some poor marking from a corner resulted in a goal for Vaughanians. The Lions hit back with sustained pressure, creating numerous opportunities including a fine strike from Harry Messenger from outside the box which thundered against the bar.

The second half found the Lions penned in for 20 minutes of relentless pressure which our defence cope with magnificently, including some sterling box to box work from Redding who dominated the midfield all game. The Lions hit on the break with fine inter-play which found Horne receiving the ball just inside the opponents half. He turned and ran at the defence, who backed off him until he unleashed a 40 yard wonder strike straight into the top corner, leaving everyone including the goal keeper in awe. Horne again found himself on the score sheet after a fumble from their goalkeeper presented him with a tap

in from 6 yards which put the game to rest. A late consolation goal for Vaughanians couldn't prevent Old Hamptonians from achieving their maiden league victory and with the chance of going 3rd next week with a win.

**Man of the Match: Robert Redding**

**Team: 1. Neil Khanna, 2. Matthew Todd, 3. Alistair Lancashire, 4. Michael Rees, 5. Nigel Owen, 6. Oliver Noonan, 7. Daniel Midwinter, 8. John Irons, 9. Robert Redding, 10. Stuart Horne, 11. Alan Shenton, 12. Harry Messenger**

**Vets Team**

No fixture – season starts on Sunday