

OH FOOTBALL REPORT No 10

OH footballers,

Apologies for the late email. Just a couple of reports this week.

The next **QUIZ NIGHT** will be held tonight, Friday 28th November at the clubhouse. From 19:30. It would be good to see some footballers take part.

Please note that **ANNUAL SUBS** (£25) are now due. Please can those outstanding be paid as soon as possible.

Fixtures for 29th November:

1s - Home v Lancing (LOB Senior Rd 2), 1.30pm KO

2s - no fixture

3s - Home v Kings Old Boys (league), 2pm KO

4s - Away v Holland Park Old Boys (league), 2.15pm KO

Vets - unknown

Results for Saturday 22nd November:

First Team:

Home v HAC (Premier) 0-1 defeat

On paper this was a mouth-watering fixture with OH unbeaten in the league and HAC unbeaten since their first game of the season.

We started very strongly, forced several corners and indeed created a number of half chances but were unable to break the deadlock despite retaining the majority of possession and territory. Good performances, quality and work rate from all was evident and indeed if it had been decided on points the first half would have been ours but regrettably it wasn't. With minutes left of the first period we appeared to lose concentration and a couple of unfamiliar wayward passes resulted in an HAC cross not being cleared and a soft goal conceded. 0 -1 at half-time.

During the interval Gower urged us to remain composed on the ball, continue with our pattern of play and push on to win the second half as we've been able to do in so many games this season. Subs Leon and GT were both introduced and we did exactly that to create a couple of half chances before Brunwin sustained a nasty knock late on and had to be carried from the field of play. With minutes remaining we were more than a little unfortunate not to be awarded a penalty after an Eckelamo header was cleared to Caughter whose shot was stopped on the line by an HAC defender's arm and head. The ref thought otherwise. This was not going to be our day!

As summarised by Gower this was a frustrating result and indeed should hurt but there were positives. We dominated possession and territory, were strong on the ball and have nothing to fear from other title rivals. This all against the backdrop of the side's spine taking a knock with Ed Holdsworth lost on the morning of the game to illness, Brunwin lost to injury during the game, Jacko out with a dislocated shoulder and Calv away on a much needed / deserved holiday (so he tells us!).

In summary a short lapse of concentration and a collective inability on the day to penetrate the HAC defensive line saw us drop points. That said the league table doesn't lie and we are well placed to continue in our bid for league success this season when we hope to return after beating Lancing Old Boys in the LOB Cup on Sat.

Finally, I understand: a) Brunwin's xray was inconclusive but that he is hoping to be available in a couple of weeks; b) EH is now well after several porcelain telephone chats on Fri night / Sat morning; c) Jacko is seeking a consultation on his shoulder; and d) that Calv is having an enjoyable break having met several lady boys.

Team: James Holdsworth, Graham Taylor, Richard Blakey, Will Spencer, Paul Gower, Richard Sexton, Matt Brunwin, Ian Yates, Matt Sims, Phil Caughter, Leon Kew, Phil Eckalamo, Matt Harrison.

Top Scorers: Harry 6, R Sexton 4, Calvert 3, Leon 1, Linacre 1, Yates 1, Gower 1

Second Team:

Home v Old Vaughanians (Senior 2) 5-2 win (Phelps 2, Sims, Naidu, Sexton)

Hampton comfortably saw off a ramshackle and kit-less Vaughanians side at Dean Road to make it two wins on the bounce in Senior 2. Despite playing on the less favoured and smaller pitch, the 2s had too much in all areas for the surprisingly poor Vaughanians. Injuries again led to some enforced changes from the weekend before with Saint and Linacre coming into the starting line-up plus welcome returns to Sims and Nabby in centre-midfield.

The skipper instilled in us the need to get a good start but ironically Hampton found themselves behind within 10 minutes. Our defensive frailty of not making sure of our clearances once again let us down and resulted in an easy chance for the opposition from which they opened the scoring. The 2s did not let that set back ruffle them though and they continued to play the better football. Following a few near misses they got their just deserves when **Phelps** sidefooted past a static keeper from the edge of the box. **Phelps** went on to double both his and Hampton's tally soon after when controlling a poor clearance from their suspect keeper, and nonchalantly walloping a netbuster back past him from 25-35 yards. That goal really buoyed Hampton and the inevitable third followed before half-time when **Sims** finished from a tight angle having been neatly set-up by Naidu. The only other blemish to the half was when captain Dunn-Baker went up for a header only to land with blood gashing all over his newly shaved plate. Luckily for us we had an able replacement in Dixon on the bench.

The second half required more of the same but, although the performance was competent, we never really got our passing game going in what were difficult conditions. Vaughanians though never looked like getting back into it and it was **Naidu** who extended our lead when nodding in at the back post following a good delivery from Sexton. Other chances came and went, notably Linacre unluckily diverting the ball onto the post, but our final goal did not come until near the end when **Sexton** got just reward for his afternoon's endeavors by poking home when through on goal. Annoyingly we allowed Vaughanians to grab a consolation due to some slack marking from a corner.

The good result moves us comfortably into mid-table and was the perfect fillip for the team night out that followed. There is a feeling though that we will need to improve the performance if we are to get a similar result at Wood Green next week.

Team: Saint, Karski (Iwanowski), Gibson, Sainsbury, Paul Dunn-Baker (Dixon), Linacre, D Sims, Nabby, Naidu, Sexton, Phelps

Top scorers: A Dunn-Baker 8, M Sexton 6

Third Team:

Away v Old Bromleians (Senior 3 South) 1-4 defeat (Barron)

No report

Team: Unknown

Top Scorers: Barron, Wood, Lopez: 4

Fourth Team:

Away v Old Vaughanians IV (LOB Nemean Cup Rd 2) 3-7 defeat (Horne, Midwinter, OG)

No report

Man of the Match: Unknown

Team: Baker, Green, Grothier, Patel, Winkworth, Todd, Shenton, Jefferies, Lloyd, Greenidge, A Jackson, Midwinter, Horne

Top Scorers: Horne 14, Greenidge 4, Jackson 3

Vets Team

Away v Old Isleworthians (LOB Jack Perry Vets Cup Rd 2) Score unknown!

No report