

HANWELL TOWN (1) v BEDFONT GREEN (4)
TUESDAY 7TH NOVEMBER 2009
MIDDLESEX SENIOR CHALLENGE CUP - FIRST ROUND

We bowed out of The Middlesex Senior Cup at the first stage, comprehensively beaten by Bedfont Green, who are currently plying their trade in The Zamaretto South and West Division.

On an excellent playing surface, made slippery by the heavy rain that preceded the kick off, Bedfont Green were by far the better side in the opening stages of the game, sharper, quicker on the ball and playing some incisive football that had our back line under all sorts of pressure. Aaron McCleish out on their left flank was giving Ian Jimmy a torrid time and twice in quick succession he drilled balls across the face of our goal without their being anybody on hand to apply the finishing touch. In a rare excursion to the other end at this stage of the game, a shrewd ball by Blaise O'Brien sent Charley Baverstock clear but the Bedfont keeper Gary Ross blocked Charley's shot with his legs. Bedfont Green deservedly took the lead in the twenty eighth minute when McCleish picking up a pass from Sheldon Grant turned Ian before beating Keiran with a low shot at his near post. Two minutes later, Bedfont were two ahead when Ronanye Benjamin who was dominating play in the midfield area, crossed to the far post and Grant headed the ball back across goal leaving Russell Minor with a simple tap in from point blank range. A fierce shot from Tashan Bradshaw was fumbled on the slippery surface by Ross before the ball was scrambled away but the visitors remained in control and five minutes before the interval went three up. Another cross by Benjamin to the far post was turned back across goal by Gavin Hart and Grant chested the ball down before volleying it beyond the helpless Keiran.

At the interval, it seemed likely that Bedfont Green would go on to record an emphatic victory but to our great credit we were every bit as good as they were in the second half and with a little bit of luck might just have got back into the game. We virtually camped in their half for the opening ten minutes of the half but without really threatening to score and McCleish set up Bedfont's fourth goal, cutting in from the left before setting up Hart for an easy finish from close range. Blaise O'Brien was then unlucky not to pull a goal back for us as he seized on a weak back header by Jimmy Major to lift the ball over the advancing Ross only for it to hit the cross bar and bounce to safety. Ross then made a fine save to turn Matt Kidson's header over the bar before Blaise got a consolation goal for us, moving onto a good ball by Tashan to round Ross before stroking the ball into the vacant net.

Side: K Jimmy, M Watson, I Jimmy, M Kidson, G Adan, J Tucker, M Buckley, T Bradshaw, C Baverstock, B O'Brien and S Potter. Subs used: Y Fehmi-Gil for Potter (57) and A Martin for I Jimmy (60)