

COCKFOSTERS (4) v HANWELL TOWN (4) after extra time
Hanwell Town won penalty shoot out 4-3
TUESDAY 6TH OCTOBER 2009
LONDON SENIOR CUP FIRST ROUND TIE

Having already succumbed to two Spartan South Midlands League clubs from Division One in cup competitions this season, we could consider ourselves very fortunate not to have suffered a third defeat of a similar nature on Tuesday night when we just managed to edge out Cockfosters in a penalty shoot out in this London Senior Cup First Round Tie. We will now meet either Croydon or Lewisham Borough at home in the second round in November.

There was little evidence of the battle to come in the opening thirty minutes during which we established a two goal lead and could well have had more. In the opening minute we should have taken the lead when a neat interchange of passes between Tashan Bradshaw and Charley Baverstock put the latter through with only the Cockfosters keeper Paul Daley to beat, but Charley's shot was blocked by the keeper's legs. At the other end, Keiran Jimmy only just managed to turn a free kick by Joe Smith around the post and then Nicky Steward given a clear run as our defenders backed off, shot across the face of our goal with nobody on hand to apply the finishing touch. A clever passing movement between Charley and Blaise O'Brien gave Charley another shooting chance but once again Daley came to Cockfosters's rescue as he turned Charley's shot aside. However, minutes later we were in the lead when an excellent pass by Steve Potter set Charley free down the right and he pulled the ball back into the path of Blaise who scored his fifth goal in three matches as he turned the ball into the vacant net. Cockfosters almost drew level ten minutes later when from a cross by Smith, Danny Curbelo who was to be a constant threat throughout, with a with a clear target in front of him headed the ball wide. This miss was to prove costly for the home side as a minute later we were two ahead. Daley made a fine save diving to his left to beat Charley's shot away but the ball rebounded straight into the path of Michael Buckley who steered it back into the empty net. We thought we had gone three ahead two minutes later when Jason Tucker's free kick was headed home by Gulad Adan but the assistant referee's flag was raised for offside. In the thirty second minute, Cockfosters pulled one back from what could best be described as rather a soft penalty kick award. Steve Potter dwelling on the ball in midfield as he waited for Charley and Blaise to come back from offside positions was dispossessed and the ball was played forward into the path of Dean Barker. The referee who was at least thirty yards behind play ruled that Michael had pushed Barker as he raced through and pointed to the spot. Barker made no mistake with the kick, sending Keiran the wrong way.

Cockfosters were much the better side in the second half and had it not

been for Keiran's keeping and some poor finishing they would have had the game won by the end of the ninety minutes. Twice early in the half, the ball was swung across our goalmouth from the left with the ball just drifting beyond our far post and then after a good ball down the right by Wesley Ewing, Smith drove the ball across goal only for Aaron Ewing to somehow turn it over the bar from point blank range. Cockfosters deservedly drew level just over the hour mark when a long cross by Paul Wood to the far post was headed back across goal by Curbelo . Keiran's punch clear under pressure went straight to the feet of Ewing who made up for his earlier miss as he volleyed the ball home. Two minutes later, Barker was right through but Keiran saved well at his feet and then Keiran failed to hold onto a shot and was dispossessed by Barker but Jason managed to scramble Barker's shot behind for a corner. We continued to live dangerously at the back with Daley almost a spectator at the other end and it seemed almost certain that we were out of the cup when with one minute remaining, another good cross by Smith was once again headed back across goal by Curbelo for Barker to score. However, we drew level two minutes later when an astute through ball by Jason found Blaise unmarked and he calmly lifted the ball over Daley to send the tie into extra time.

Two minutes into injury time, Keiran did well to turn Barker's free kick against the inside of our goal post before Gulad hooked the ball clear. Chris Mills then sent Charley through but he screwed his shot across the face of the Cockfosters goal but minutes later we were back in front when from a well flighted free kick by Chris, Jason headed the ball home. In the second period of extra time, Keiran turned a fierce shot from Smith over the bar at his near post and then Barker with a clear cut opportunity headed wide from a corner kick. Cockfosters made their only substitution of the half introducing Sammy Gomez to the fray and he was quickly into action with two forceful runs forward. Just as it seemed as if Jason's goal would be enough to clinch our victory, we failed to deal with a long clearance down field by Daley and Aaron Ewing hooked home the equaliser to set up the penalty shoot out.

Jason Tucker and Dean Barker both scored with their first kicks for their respective sides before Aaron Wise missed with our second kick and when Cockfosters scored from both their second and third kicks, it again looked as if we were going out. Chris Mills tucked away our fourth kick after Keiran had saved Cockfoster's fourth kick and when Smith drove the home side's fifth kick wide, Matt O'Brien struck home our fifth kick to send us through to the next round.

Side: Keiran Jimmy, Marvyn Watson, Gulad Adan, Ian Jimmy, Jason Tucker, Matt O'Brien, Tashan Bradshaw, Michael Buckley, Charley Baverstock, Blaise O'Brien and Steven Potter. Substitutes used: Chris Mills for Potter (65), Aaron Wise for Buckley (82) and Aonghus Martin for Bradshaw (95)