

HANWELL TOWN (5) v COLNEY HEATH (0)
MONDAY 28TH DECEMBER 2009
MOLTEN SPARTAN SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE
PREMIER DIVISION

Playing our first game for close on a month, we recorded an emphatic 5-0 win over third in the table Colney Heath, who arrived knowing that the two sides above them in the table Aylesbury and Tring Athletic were not in action and that a point would propel them back to the top of the division. This result continues our remarkable home record against Colney Heath as their three previous visits to us had seen us run out 4-1, 7-1 and 5-1 winners.

Our side showed a number of changes from that which had played in our previous game against Kingsbury London Tigers, with skipper Matt Kidson, Michael Buckley, Lee O'Leary and Aonghus Martin all unavailable. Jason Tucker was also missing due to his ongoing back problem. On the plus side, Antony Rowlands was back in the side for the first time since mid November.

There was little evidence of the final scoreline in the opening exchanges with Colney Heath on the offensive winning a string of corner kicks and we were slightly fortunate not to fall behind when a fierce closer range shot from Kevin Ashwood got a deflection that sent the ball just wide of Berkeley Lawrencein's near post into the side netting. We gradually got ourselves into the game, enjoying a lot of possession in midfield with Chris Mills and Aaron Wise heavily involved but without being able to mount a serious challenge on the Colney Heath goal. We had a scare on the half hour mark when Ian Jimmy was adjudged to have brought down Phil Jackman right on the edge of our penalty area and we were relieved when the Division's current leading goalscorer Ian Cooper sent the resultant free kick just wide. A good individual run by Aaron finished with his shot just going over the Colney Heath crossbar before we took the lead in the thirty sixth minute. A good interchange of passes on the right set up a shooting opportunity for Charley Baverstock. Charley's shot was blocked but the ball rebounded forward and Charley followed up to turn the ball into the goal area into the path of Blaise O'Brien. Blaise's close range shot was well saved by the Colney Heath keeper Tom Blackman as he turned the ball onto the post but the ball ran loose back across goal into the path of Tashan Bradshaw who had a simple tap in, bringing his own personal goal drought to an end. Minutes later we should have gone further ahead when more good work by Charley set up a simple chance for Blaise but with the goal at his mercy, Blaise's shot lacked any pace enabling Blackman to save.

Colney Heath enjoyed more of the play in the opening ten minutes of the second half and Town's back line came under considerable pressure, but Antony, Matt O'Brien, Ian Jimmy and Marvyn Watson, all of whom had excellent games, stood up to the pressure well to the extent that Berkeley

did not have serious save to make as Colney Heath pressed forward in search of the equaliser.

Having survived this period, we once again began to assert ourselves and went two ahead after twenty minutes of the half. A good ball down the line by Marvyn into the feet of Tashan saw Tashan make ground before slipping the ball into the path of Charley racing into the penalty box, where he was tripped and referee Andy Medlock had no hesitation in pointing to the penalty spot. Blaise atoned for his earlier miss by rifling the ball past Blackman into the roof of the net.

This goal seemed to knock the heart out of Colney Heath although player manager Scott Lacey gave a reminder of days gone by as he headed Ashwood's fiercely driven corner kick just over Town's bar. Shortly afterwards, Town made their first substitution, newcomer Wayne Jackson replacing Yassine Fehmi-Gil who had had rather a disappointing afternoon. Jackson was heavily involved in Town's third goal, his determined challenge for a 50/50 ball allowing him the time to square the ball into the goalmouth where Blaise had the time to control the ball before side footing it past the helpless Blackman for his fiftieth goal for the club in his seventy fifth appearance. Three minutes later we had made it four as Aaron was given all the time in the world to stroke the ball into the path of Charley who pulled it back into the path of Blaise who made no mistake, completing his hat trick with his twenty second goal of the campaign, twelve of these goals having come in his last nine appearances. We then made a double substitution, Aaron and Antony making way for player manager Keith Rowlands and seventeen year old Connor Duffy, the son of former Town manager and player Ray Duffy.

We scored our fifth and final goal two minutes into injury time at the end of the game when Tashan raced clear down the right before turning the ball into the path of Charley who so deservedly got on the score sheet after his hard working performance which had seen him so heavily involved in three of Town's goals.

In what was a fine team performance in which everybody played their part, special mention must be made of Matt O'Brien and Ian Jimmy in the centre of our defence, both of whom having had outstanding games.

Side; Berkeley Lawrencein, Antony Rowlands, Marvyn Watson, Ian Jmmy, Matt O' Brien, Aaron Wise, Yassine Fehmi-Gil, Chris Mills, Charley Baverstock, Blaise O'Brien and Tashan Bradshaw. Substitutes used: Wayne Jackson for Fehmi-Gil (73), Keith Rowlands and Connor Duffy for A Rowlands and Wise (87,