

AFC DUNSTABLE (4) v HANWELL TOWN (3)
WEDNESDAY 9TH SEPTEMBER 2009
SSML LEAGUE CHALLENGE TROPHY FIRST ROUND

Travelling to meet Division One side AFC Dunstable in the First Round of the League's Challenge Trophy, we totally failed to reproduce the form that we had shown against Saffron Walden the previous Saturday and were deservedly beaten by the better side on the night.

Dunstable were quickly out of the blocks, playing some neat possession football and took the lead after just six minutes when a good ball down the left set Daniel Edwards free and Bernard Christie muscled his way through to bundle the ball past Berkley Lawrencin in from close range. We gradually began to come to terms with our opponents but could easily have fallen further behind when Christie shot straight at Berkley from close range after Gulad Adan had been caught dwelling on the ball. Shortly after, from an inswinging free kick by Chris Mills, Blaise O'Brien was unlucky not to score when his header hit the crossbar with Robert Evans in the Dunstable goal beaten. Blaise then played Charley Baverstock through with only Evans to beat but the goalkeeper blocked Charley's effort with his feet and then Blaise created an even better chance for himself but shot hopelessly wide. In the six minutes before the interval we scored twice to go in at the interval 2-1 ahead. Our equaliser came when Ian Jimmy hoisted the ball into their goalmouth, Evans left his line to clear but could only flap the ball to the feet of Charley who lobbed it back into the vacant net. Our second was scored by Leon Skinner who drove home a low corner kick by Mills.

Early in the second half we should have increased our lead when a neat interchange between Charley and Blaise resulted in the latter playing the ball into the path of Chris with a clear run to goal but he blasted the ball wide. As the half progressed, Dunstable pressed forward time and time again and we lived dangerously at the back whilst at the other end, Evans became almost a spectator. We survived two penalty appeals which on another day might have gone against us, but when Jake Jenkins was adjudged to have tripped Christie as he moved onto a through ball, the referee had no hesitation in pointing to the spot and Felix Kyeremeh made no mistake with the resultant penalty. We immediately regained the lead when Aaron Wise scored direct from a free kick but Dunstable bounced back and two minutes later, the score was at 3-3 when Ryan Quinn beat Berkeley with a low shot into the corner. With three minutes remaining, Berkeley made a great save diving to his left and extra time looked inevitable but deep into injury time, Kyeremeh headed home James Baldry's cross on the far post to earn the home side the win that they had earned.

Side: Lawrencin, I.Jimmy, Adan, Skinner, Jenkins, Wise, Bradshaw, Mills, Baverstock, B.O'Brien and Potter. Substitutes: M.O'Brien for Potter (59), G.Mapes for Bradshaw (68) and A.Harris for Mills (73)