

HAREFIELD UNITED (1) v HANWELL TOWN (1)

TUESDAY 22ND SEPTEMBER 2009

SPARTAN SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE-PREMIER DIVISION

Just seventy two hours after our disappointing display at Bedford in the FA Vase, we produced an excellent display to gain a point from a 1-1 draw against local rivals Harefield United.

The game was made more notable for the fact that Keith Rowlands made his first start in a game for us since way back on 1st March 2008.

Harefield began the game in fine fashion and could well have been two up after ten minutes play, had their finishing matched the quality of their build up. After just five minutes, Denver Morris outpaced Matt Kidson out on the touch line before squaring the ball across our goalmouth but there was nobody up in support to apply the finishing touch. Five minutes later, a cross to the far post by Morris was headed back across goal straight to Murray Williamson but he side footed the ball over the crossbar. Having survived these early scares we began to come more and more into the game and Keith nearly scored when he turned quickly before drilling the ball just wide of the far post. At the other end, Marvyn Watson deflected a low cross past Keiran Jimmy but recovered sufficiently quickly to hack the ball clear from our goal line. Blaise O'Brien was the desperately unlucky not to give us the lead when he raced onto a long ball forward by Ryan Fenton, who was making his first appearance for us, and lifted the ball over Harefield's advancing keeper Carl Tasker only to see the ball hit the post and rebound to safety. However, five minutes from the interval we did take the lead with Matt Kidson heading home Chris Mills's driven free kick at the near post.

The second half began in similar fashion to the first, with Harefield on the offensive and Ray Curtis should have done better than to shoot wide after getting right through with only Keiran to beat. Morris then latched onto a rare mistake by Jason Tucker but Keiran turned his fierce shot over the bar. Chris Mills then played Keith through but he blazed the ball wildly over the bar. On the hour mark, we almost went two ahead when Aaron Wise caught Harefield's last defender Luke Eldridge in possession and with only Tasker to beat he slipped the ball sideways for Keith to shoot into the empty net, only for the assistant referee to rule Keith offside. Five minutes later, Harefield were level when we gave the ball away in mid field and Keiran under pressure was unable to hold onto the high ball lofted into our goalmouth and Danny Buckle was the quickest to react seizing onto the loose ball to drive it home from an acute angle. Both sides had chances to grab the winner, none more so than Harefield's Jamie Houlston who headed over the bar from point blank range.

Side: K.Jimmy, M.Watson, R.Fenton, M.Kidson, J.Tucker, M.O'Brien, M.Buckley, K.Rowlands,C.Mills, B.O'Brien and A.Wise. Subs used: A,Rowlands and T.Bradshaw for Buckley and Watson (72) and A.Harris for Wise (80).