

LEVERSTOCK GREEN (2) v HANWELL TOWN (1)
SATURDAY 14TH NOVEMBER 2009
MOLTEN SPARTAN SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE
PREMIER DIVISION

On a dreadful day weather wise, strong winds and frequent heavy showers, we slipped to a 2-1 defeat at Leverstock Green.

Thanks to all the hard work of the Leverstock Green groundsman, the pitch was declared fit for play and a hard fought game ensued.

Both sides took time to settle in the difficult conditions and neither keeper was tested in the early stages, before Keiran Jimmy in our goal did well to hold onto a low shot from Matt Wardle in the slippery conditions. The home side almost took the lead in the twentieth minute when a cross by Lee Bircham found Lewis Pritchard completely unmarked in front of goal. Keiran got a hand to the header diverting the ball onto the post from where it was scrambled to safety. At the other end, from Michael Buckley's corner, Matt Kidson's header was blocked on the line and Charley Baverstock's follow up effort struck a defender and the chance was gone. Keith Rowlands then found the net with a header from Jason Tucker's cross but his effort was ruled out for offside. We took the lead on the stroke of half time when Antony Rowlands's long ball down wind found Blaise O'Brien and Blaise notched his eleventh goal in his last eleven appearances as he drove the ball across the home keeper Kevin Marsh into the far corner.

Leverstock Green started the second half in determined fashion and we were immediately pushed back onto the defensive. In the opening minutes of the half, Pritchard with a good shooting opportunity fired wide and then Keiran did well to turn Andrew Cracknell's effort from long distance over the bar. Pritchard then missed another good chance, as he headed Wardle's cross wide. It seemed inevitable that the home side would score and they did in the fifty fourth minute, although there was some controversy over their goal, Pritchard seemingly being in an offside position when he ran onto a pass by Wardle to drive the ball beyond Keiran's reach, from a similar position to where Blaise had scored in the first half. We fought back strongly and Keith saw his effort go just wide of the far post after he had turned and shot quickly in the box. On the hour mark we should have regained the lead after a clever through ball by substitute Chris Mills had put Michael through but with only the keeper to beat he rolled the ball wide of the post. At the other end, a diving header by Simon Conway went just wide of the post with Keiran beaten. With five minutes to go and a 1-1 draw looking the most likely result, a cross shot by Dan Griggs was deflected into the path of Dale Sears and he slid the ball home for the winner.

Side: K Jimmy, A Rowlands, I Jimmy, M Kidson, G Adan, J Tucker, M Buckley, K Rowlands, C Baverstock, B O'Brien and L O'Leary

Subs used: C Mills for O'Leary (62) and T Bradshaw for Buckley (75)