

ST MARGARETSBURY (1) v HANWELL TOWN (1)
SATURDAY 31ST OCTOBER 2009
MOLTEN SPARTAN SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE
PREMIER DIVISION

Travelling to meet St Margaretsbury, we recorded our sixth 1-1 league result of the season but came away, believing that we had missed an opportunity to gain all three points.

On a difficult playing surface, we were much the better side in the first half but were denied from turning our territorial advantage into goals by some good goalkeeping by the home side's James Sturgeon and some resolute defensive work by the St Margaretsbury back line, in which their central defensive partnership of Carl Robinson and Steve Barker excelled. We began the game at a high tempo taking the game to our opponents and we might well have been awarded a penalty after fifteen minutes when Tashan Bradshaw was clearly pushed in the back in the box but the referee waved play on. At the other end, a tremendous retrieving tackle by Gulad Adan saved the day for us when Mark Draper was just about to shoot after he had worked his way into a good shooting position. The best chance of the half fell to Tashan Bradshaw on the half hour mark as he raced clear but Sturgeon blocked his effort with his legs.

The roles were reversed in the opening minutes of the second half with St Margaretsbury in the ascendancy. We were forced into an early change when Steve Potter limped off. Keith Rowlands replaced him resulting in a change of formation for us with Charley Baverstock having to drop back into mid-field. Charley was immediately involved in a move down the right squaring the ball back into the path of Michael Buckley who shot narrowly over the bar. Further efforts followed from Charley and then after a superb through ball by Matt O'Brien, Tashan Francis-Adeyinka was through on goal but once again Sturgeon was able to block the shot with his legs. The deadlock was broken in the sixty eighth minute when from a corner by Keith, Gulad headed the ball back into the goalmouth, Matt turned it against the crossbar and it fell to Jason Tucker who netted his fiftieth goal for the club. St Margaretsbury fought back strongly, but without really troubling Berkeley Lawrence in our goal until twelve minutes from time when we conceded yet another needless free kick some thirty yards from our goal. Ben Wiper swung the ball into our goalmouth and a scramble developed before the ball came out into the path of Anthony Valentine who emphatically volleyed it into our net. In the final ten minutes of the game, the home side looked much the more likelier to score again and we were very fortunate in the final minute when with Berkeley out of position and with the goal at his mercy, Draper headed wide of the empty net.

Side: Lawrencien, Watson, I.Jimmy, Adan, Tucker, M.O'Brien, Bradshaw, Potter, Baverstock, Francis-Adeyinka and Buckley.

Subs used: K.Rowlands for Potter (53) and Y. Fehmi-Gil for Bradshaw (85)