

WELWYN GARDEN CITY (0) v HANWELL TOWN (3)
SATURDAY 3RD OCTOBER 2009

SPARTAN SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE-PREMIER DIVISION

We continued our climb away from the bottom of the league table with our third win in succession as we recorded a 3-0 win at Welwyn Garden City. On a very windy day in a game played on a rock hard surface, the game was never likely to be a classic as so it proved but we gave a very competent display to comfortably secure the three points. Crucial to our success was our defensive play in which Jason Tucker excelled to such an extent that Keiran Jimmy never had a serious save to make throughout the ninety minutes.

After a very mundane beginning, the game sprung to life in the tenth minute with Mark Jessop in the Welwyn goal making a terrific save diving to his left to turn Aaron Wise's shot away for a corner. A forceful run by Keith Rowlands culminated in him driving the ball across the face of goal whilst from a similar wide position, Blaise O'Brien saw his cross shot saved by Jessop after Chris Mills had played the ball into his path. We took the lead in the twenty fifth minute after Jessop played the ball forward to his centre back Chris Sargent. Sargent was immediately dispossessed by Chris who then showing great control in the conditions lifted the ball over Jessop into the empty Welwyn net. In a rare attack at the other end, former Town Youth team player Lawrence Rispoli, drove the ball across the face of our goal with nobody on hand to apply the finishing touch.

We continued to hold the upper hand and went further ahead on the hour mark. Again, the goal came thanks to a mistake in the Welwyn defence. From a long ball forward by Antony Rowlands, Liam Fowler tried to shepherd the ball behind for a goal kick but Keith took the ball away from him and slid it back into the path of Blaise, who after having seen his first effort blocked, managed to force the ball home from close range. We were now in pretty much total control and Blaise should have scored again when he found himself right through with only Jessop to beat, but he opted to use his right foot rather than his left and Jessop got down to block his close range effort. We then had a goal disallowed, the referee deciding that Blaise had pushed Darren Till in the back before the defender headed the ball into his own net. Chris then set up a chance for Matt O'Brien who missed the target by some distance and then Tashan Bradshaw after a good run drove the ball wide. Welwyn's only clear cut chance of the second half fell to Rispoli who shot wide and we then scored our third in the first minute of the time added on when a great ball by Aaron sent Blaise through again and this time he made no mistake clinically slipping the ball wide of the advancing Welwyn keeper.

Side: K.Jimmy, A.Rowlands, A.Harris, M.Kidson, J.Tucker, A.Wise, M.Buckley, K.Rowlands,M.O'Brien, B.O'Brien and C.Mills. Subs used: M.Watson for Harris (45), T.Bradshaw for K.Rowlands (70) and I.Jimmy for Buckley (75).