

# Hampstead denied by late short-corner strike



● In the running... Hampstead's Mark Darbon surges past two Southgate players during Sunday's 1-1 draw. Picture by Max Flego

**Patrick Mooney**

## Southgate 1 Hampstead 1

HAMPSTEAD were denied three English League premier division points they fully deserved when Southgate levelled from an over-time short-corner on Sunday.

This was a significant game for both sides. Hampstead's coach Soma Singh was returning to the club where he enjoyed many years of success for the first time in a League fixture.

Grant von Mayer, who skippered Southgate last season, was making his first League appearance for Hampstead, who had at least three others in their line-up with Southgate connections.

For struggling Southgate, it

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was the first opportunity to play their England under-21 stars back from Junior World Cup duty.

Von Mayer took over in central midfield for Hampstead, with Singh organising things from the bench, and he was immediately in the thick of the action in the third minute, just failing to connect with Immy Bhatti.

Yet, Hampstead had little to show for their territorial advantage in the first half. Gregor Maier made three saves, two from Southgate short-corners.

Hampstead's sole corner produced a strong drag-flick from Justin King that was saved.

After half-time, Singh called

for pressure on the Southgate forwards from the off and the tactic began to work. Paul Hilton fired in a powerful shot within two minutes of the restart but was deflected around a post.

Hampstead finally opened the scoring in the 50th minute through Mike Williamson. He surged to the byline, looked up and, with the goalkeeper anticipating a cross, quickly flicked home between him and the near post from a tight angle.

Hampstead continued to search for further goals but were denied by combination of it questionable umpiring and poor finishing.

Then, in the final minute, Southgate pushed the ball right for a final attack. King was penalised for obstruction as the

player ran across him and despite no contact with ball or stick the umpire awarded a short-corner, as the ball was in the Hampstead 25. Southgate's conversion of the short-corner was the last action of the game.

Hampstead have a double header at Paddington Rec over the weekend. Tomorrow, they play leaders Reading and then, on Sunday, tackle Doncaster in the fourth round of the EHA Cup.

**Hampstead:** Maier; A von Mayer, King, Boucher, Sellick; Sully, G von Mayer, Williamson; Bhatti, Mayer-Aull, Carolan. Subs: Dodson, Darbon, Hilton, Hetherington, Singh.

pmooney@hamhigh.co.uk