

The Lure of the Cup

HAMPSTEAD 7 ROBINSONS 0

Sunday 4th November 2001

The Carlton was a sea of people on Sunday morning, following the arrival of the coach from Bristol, with at least 50 aboard. This was the second vehicle to be used, as there had had to be a bus swap north of Bristol upon the discovery that the first had a maximum speed of 40mph.

Carlton Vale could not come too soon for some of our visitors, as the toilet door on the coach was not operating....

With Robinsons finding it a little difficult to adjust to the administrative rigours of the EHA, what with team sheets, player numbering and a bench, the delegate and Umpires offered them a further 5 minutes warm up time. They also had to abandon their traditional blue and wear red shirts, of which they discovered that they only had ten. The Delegate then read out the rules for the golden goal version of extra time (fifteen minutes only in two halves, first to score wins or down to flicks).

Robinsons play in the Gerrard Premier League in the West and had a bad day at the office on the day before with a 6-0 defeat at the hands of Yeovil, for whom Rob Hill is still playing and, according to Robinsons, still getting too much respect from the local umpires.

Hampstead quickly put Robinsons on the back foot with some quality hockey. Coach Soma Singh opted for sweeper, with Max Mayer Aull at centre half and the two von Mayers in at right and left halves, respectively.

The opening goal was scored in only the second minute, following passes between Max Mayer-Aull and the returning Paul Hilton, before Craig Carolan smacked a hallmark reverse stick shot at considerable speed past the bewildered 'keeper. Not many shots of that quality had been seen in Bristol before, according to the Robinsons' bench.

The second Hampstead goal came only five minutes later from a long corner. The ball was drilled in from the left and the resurgent Hilton coolly deflected the ball at pace high into the net, with the 'keeper again unable to react.

Hampstead debutant Grant von Mayer, the younger brother of Hampstead skipper Andrew, then capped a fine debut with Hampstead's third on 20 minutes by converting a short corner after Matt Hetherington's powerful drag flick was saved by the 'keeper on the line. Grant reacted quicker and poked the ball home from waist high.

The first half ended in slight controversy after Soma Singh cleverly rescued a poor back pass from former 1st XI skipper, Rob Turner, only for a short corner to

be awarded. However the team defended it well and the scorer remained 3-0 at the break.

After a soak for the pitch, the second half continued with Hampstead once again dominant. Matt Hetherington finally put his name to the score sheet with a clinical low drag flick from the fourth corner that he celebrated with a Justin King style salute.

By now the team had an unfamiliar look to it with Belgian, Fernando Lefere slotting in nicely up front and Rob Turner almost back to his best at right half. However the team's fluidity was not affected. Fernando was busy, keeping FIH Umpire Tony Kelleher equally busy with the whistle.

Haddrell was shown a yellow card for the visitors after a dig too many on Matt Hetherington. Following a few obstructions from Hampstead players of which umpire Tony Kellher had given some warning, the unlikely perpetrator was found to be Dave Sellick and he was yellow-carded too – a rare event for him.

Hampstead's fifth goal was a well worked effort, culminating in some virtuoso skill from Immy Bhatti who, receiving a pass from Mike Williamson, opened the face of the stick on shooting, allowing a simple tap in for Luke Hodges at the far post.

Immy also featured in the sixth goal, cleverly tricking the 'keeper, following his double point blank saves, into going down at his feet to defend and yet still hitting the ball beneath him from where it somehow squirmed across the line for 6-0.

Steve Dodson had replaced Gregor Maier in the Hampstead goal at half time and had to be vigilant to keep out two Robinsons' attacks with nine minutes left. He went on to keep the clean sheet, mirroring Gregor's fine block half way through first half.

In the closing minutes, with Robinsons clearly tiring, Hetherington was allowed the freedom of the pitch and ran through several tackles for 60 yards from deep in his own half to the top of the dee, before deftly slipping the ball to Craig Carolan to touch home.

With a 7-0 scoreline the final whistle came as welcome relief to the visitors and their supporters. It also seemed a relief for our visiting Dutch Umpire, who had had to put up with some heated comments from the West Country lads.

There are no Premier League games next Sunday but the League restarts on 18th November with an away trip to Southgate for another crucial game for both sides, with the home team eager for points for League survival .

In the meantime we await news of the 4th Round draw early next week: any takers for Hull/ Isca/ Harleston/ Doncaster/ Formby, away?

TEAM Maier; Singh; A von Mayer, Sellick, G von Mayer; Hetherington, Mayer-Aull,
Williamson; Bhatti, Hilton, Carolan
SUBS: Dodson, Turner, Lefere, Hodges

Third Round Results

Andover 0 - 6 Chelmsford
Ashford (Middx) 1 - 2 Reading
Bath Buccaneers 3 - 2 Fareham
Belper 11 - 2 Worcester Norton
Bowdon 6 - 2 Barford Tigers
City of Portsmouth 5 - 0 Shefford & Sandy
Coventry & NW 1 - 5 Cannock
Doncaster 5 - 4 Bournville
Durham University 2 - 8 Beeston
East Grinstead 1 - 3 Old Georgians
Firebrands 0 - 4 Canterbury
Hamble 1 - 4 Oxford Hawks
Hampstead & Westminster 7 - 0 Robinsons
Harleston Magpies 5 - 1 Sunbury
Havant 10 - 0 St. Neots
Hounslow & Ealing 0 - 0 Bromley [Bromley won 5-4 on strokes]
Ipswich and East Suffolk 2 - 5 Dereham
Ipswich 2 - 6 Old Loughtonians
Isca 2 - 1 Maidenhead
Khalsa 3 - 4 Harborne [Golden Goal]
Lewes 3 - 4 Surbiton
Loughborough Students 5 - 6 Brooklands
Maidstone 3 - 1 Woking
Old De Ferrians 1 - 6 Southgate
Peterborough Town 3 - 0 Cambridge City
Purley Walcountians 7 - 1 Leighton Buzzard
Sheffield University Bankers 1 - 1 Sheffield Hallam [Sheffield won 3-0 on strokes]
St Albans 0 - 3 Teddington
Stourport 3 - 1 Nottingham
West Bridgford 5 - 3 Springfields
West Herts 2 - 9 Guildford
Wimbledon 4 - 1 Blueharts