



THE ARTHURIAN LEAGUE

(AFFILIATED TO THE AMATEUR FOOTBALL ALLIANCE)

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ESTABLISHED 1961

Representative Team Match Report

Arthurian League 2 - 2 Southern Amateur League

Played at Potters' Bar F. C. on Wednesday 2nd March 2011, k.o. 7:45pm

On Wednesday 2nd March the Arthurian League Representative XI travelled to Potters' Bar F.C. for the fixture against notoriously their toughest opponents of the season, the Southern Amateur League Representative XI. Late pull-outs from one Old Carthusian, one Old Harrovian and one King's Wimbledon Old Boy meant that only a squad of 11 was available on the night. However, on paper it was a very strong XI.

There had been a fixture cancelled at Potters' Bar just 4 days previously owing to a waterlogged pitch, but the ground staff had clearly done a great job to get the surface playable for this fixture. The Arthurian League XI started very brightly and, after 7 minutes, found themselves 1-0 up after a speculative long-range effort from Mike Tilles (King's Wimbledon Old Boys) caused the opposition goalkeeper to flap and the ball spilled over the line for a deserved lead. Amazingly, this lead was doubled after 15 minutes when a through ball from Quentin Baker (Old Harrovians, Captain on the night) to George Wilson (Old Foresters) resulted in a one-on-one with the keeper who was able to get to the ball first but only managed a half-hearted clearance which fell to Mike Tilles whose looping header just about found the back of the net from a full 30 metres.

The Southern Amateur XI were only able to assert themselves in the final 20 minutes of the first half. Some superb defending from Chris Akinrele (Old Foresters) and 2 fantastic saves from James Butcher (Lancing Old Boys) kept the score at 2-0 until the 43rd minute. Ben Coleridge-Cole (Old Etonians) did some superb battling work in the middle of the field to give the Arthurian League plenty of first half possession. However, one sustained attack down the left flank from the opposition resulted in a pin-point cross that was volleyed into the back of the net from 15 yards from the SAL centre-forward, giving the away team a vital goal just before half time.

Without any fresh legged substitutes for the Arthurian League to use, gaps opened up in the second half with the SAL dominating possession, putting pressure on the Arthurian League back four which initially was soaked up well. However, after 64 minutes the SAL were level at 2-2 after the best-worked move of the match (involving 6 or 7 players). The ball was neatly placed into the bottom corner of the net from 10 yards by the other SAL centre forward.

President: *Martin Samuel (Old Westminster)*

Hon. Secretary, *Henry Frost (Old Carthusians)*
c/o 70 Hadyn Park Road, London W12 9AG



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Tiredness down the left flank (from where a great deal of SAL pressure was coming) meant a switch of positions was needed, so Freddie Brunt (Old Harrovians) moved back from left midfield to left back and did a great job at soaking up pressure in the final quarter of the game. Jonny Corbett (King's Wimbledon Old Boys) held the defence together like a rock alongside Chris Akinrele, with Torquil Law (Old Etonians) also making his presence known in holding out the last few attacks from the SAL.

The final whistle was a pleasing sound for a tired Arthurian League XI and a 2-2 draw a fair result on the night against a high quality opposition.

Squad:

James Butcher (Lancing Old Boys)

Torquil Law (Old Etonians), Chris Akinrele (Old Foresters), Jonny Corbett (Old King's Wimbledon)

Freddie Brunt (Old Harrovians), Quentin Baker © (Old Harrovians), Ben Coleridge-Cole (Old Etonians), James Badgett (King's Wimbledon Old Boys)

George Wilson (Old Foresters), Mike Tilles (King's Wimbledon Old Boys)

Scorer:

Mike Tilles 2 (King's Wimbledon Old Boys)

END