

Highgate Match Reports

1st X1 Match Report Won 4-3

Aldenham gained their first win of the season with a well deserved victory. The score line suggests a much closer game than it maybe should have been as Aldenham miss a hatful of chances in both halves and were nearly made to pay at the end. On a day when both teams were missing influential players Aldenham's cause was not helped with the early substitution of the dangerous Raby, although he had just put the away side 2 goals up after 25 minutes. Raby had also played his part in the first goal after just 2 minutes when he crossed after a short corner routine with Numann for Captain Kane Wise to head home. Wise and his Centre back partner Richard Hall were outstanding on the day and were helped significantly by two year 11 students (Francis Amos & Kane Thomas) making their competitive debuts for the 1st X1. Both played superbly with Thomas helping to set up the 4th goal when after a long run down the right wing he crossed and the Highgate defender could only put into his own net. This was after Aldenham's goal of the game was scored by Matthew Lench with a curling free kick from 20 yards into the top corner of the net. Two late Highgate goals made it a tense last couple of minutes but the boys held on for a much needed victory before their 1st round ISFA cup game this Wednesday at Birkdale school in Sheffield.

MOM – Francis Amos

2nd X1 - Lost 1-2 (1-0)

A glorious morning but a disappointing defeat grabbed from the jaws of victory. Aldenham started very brightly, despite a number of imposed changes, with Serumaga and Odugbesan just too fast for the Highgate defence. The former scored and was also hauled down when bearing down for a second but, crucially, the defender remained on the pitch. After that, profligacy took over and Highgate were allowed to keep a foothold in the game. The second half was a closer contest and Aldenham failed to take further chances created in open play. Meanwhile, Highgate created far less but were awarded two penalties. The first for handball was very doubtful (that's being polite) and the second was nearly saved by a diving Rajani in goal. But, in the end, both counted, whilst the numerous unconverted Aldenham chances didn't.

Man of the Match : Matt Goodfield for another "Eveready Battery" performance

Aldenham 3rd XI 2-2 draw with Highgate.

The Highgate 3rd XI were a strong, physical and determined outfit who dominated the first half. Aldenham had a number of key players missing but those who came in for this game did us proud (J.J. Okunpolor, A. Asabia, T. Asher). Again the back four and keeper F. Hoh were relentless in defence but a slip in communication allowed Highgate their first goal. This lead spurred on the Highgate side and sensing victory they now played with even greater determination. This resulted in a second goal for them. To the credit of the Aldenham side their heads did not drop despite the game appearing to slip from their grasp. After a stirring team talk from the assistant coach the home side took to the field with renewed vigour. The Highgate defence was beginning to open up. Along the wings W. Kirby

and C. Richie worked well along the right and similarly A. Everlegh and W. Crack created chances on the left. It was from one of these moves that resulted in M. Glassman gaining possession on the edge of the box. With calm confidence he slotted a peach of a goal in the top right corner of the net. It was Aldenham's turn to get fired up. The equaliser came from a cross on the right and, under pressure from our midfield and strikers, a Highgate defender back headed an own goal. The last ten minutes saw some close attempts on goal from both sides. The man of the match must go to Will Kirby for his commitment and perseverance.

U16 - Aldenham 5 Highgate 3

In a first half dominated by possession and territory a combination of missed chances and a defensive lapse from a corner saw the home team level at half time through a Jordan Stein strike.

The second half saw Aldenham dominate further when out of nothing Highgate went ahead. Aldenham showed the grit and determination required by Alan Hansen as within two minutes of the goal they were in front thanks to Dan Blavo and Jordan Stein. Another corner secured Highgate an equaliser as the game moved to the last 5 minutes Matteus Carvello scored the crucial 4th to cap a MOM performance. Harrison Threadgold secured a well deserved victory and parents and students went home happy with result and performance.

15A - lost 3-0

After a tough competitive match against Bradfield on tuesday and going so close in the 6 aside tournament on thursday, saturdays game against a very good Highgate team was always going to be tough on the boys. In saying that we gifted them two goals and if we had capitalised on our own chances, the score line may have been different. Whilst obviously being tired from a tough week, too many of the lads simply did not perform. I will expect the boys to pick themselves up and offer a much better performance against Winchester.

U15b – lost 3-0.

After the disappointment of the heavy loss against Bradfield in midweek, the U15bs were hoping to gain at least a point from their second home match in less than a week. The game started brightly with both sides pressing forward for an early goal, but this once again went to the opposition. A second went in shortly afterwards when Captain Coleman, in a desperate attempt to clear a shot off the line, only succeeded in turning it into his own net. Highgate's third came from a corner, when the ball ricocheted round the box before bouncing across the line in a somewhat comical fashion.

Despite being 3-0 down within the half hour, Aldenham continued to press forward and forced a string of outstanding saves from the Highgate keeper. A goal should have come on the hour, when Borralho was elbowed in the box by the Highgate Centre Back *a la* Fellaini, but Borralho's weak penalty slipped wide of the keeper. The boys kept on going in search of that elusive first home goal until the final whistle blew, and were very unlucky to come away from the match without anything to show for it.

Man of the match: Jordan Buckley-Davies

U14A W 4-1

An excellent performance from all to give the U14A their first win of the season. 4 great goals from Keating (2), Hawkes and Tyrell. The team is starting to gel and play well together despite having only been put together 2 weeks ago and they have shown that they have a lot of potential. Jordan Davis MOM again.

U 14B - Lost 5-3

Improvements are being made all the time by the U14B team. When moving forwards the team shows good movement and some decent decision making. If they can feed the striker there is a very good chance of a shot on goal. The wings were used well and balls through the centre were contested more physically than in previous matches. However, we are still weak at the back with too many soft goals being conceded needlessly. This is still an area that needs serious work.

Man of the match has to be Aaron Black with his two goals - both well taken. Mention in dispatches goes to Ed Baldwin at left back and Sarvesh Thiruchelvan for his debut.