

## Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> November

Aldenham 1<sup>st</sup> XI 3 Highgate 1

The Aldenham 1<sup>st</sup> XI's fine run of results continued with a hard fought victory over local rivals Highgate. Going behind after 20 minutes seemed to spring life into the 1<sup>st</sup> XI and from a superb Julian Schlicht pass, Max Raby raced clear to finish with aplomb. With Aldenham slowly working their way back into the game and looking the stronger of the two teams it took two superb saves from Elliott Edwards to stop Highgate retaking the lead against the run of play towards the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> half. However, with the last attack of the half, Kevin Voeller struck a ferocious effort from 20 yards that the keeper failed to hold and Matt Lench was on hand to finish the rebound under pressure from a Highgate defender. With a 2-1 lead at half time, Aldenham looked far more comfortable during the second half. Highgate continued to have the majority of possession but failed to break down a solid Aldenham defensive unit. With 15 minutes remaining a contender for goal of the season made the game safe for the 1<sup>st</sup> XI. After another counter attack between Schlicht and Voeller down the left, Voeller found himself free around 25 yards from goal. With encouragement from the manager and the Headmaster Voeller unleashed an unstoppable drive into the top right hand corner. Captain Voeller certainly has the knack of scoring important and spectacular goals but this stood out even by his standards. With the excellent Collier making his debut at left back and vice captain Wise continuing his outstanding form (even without his partner Hall) Highgate were kept comfortably at arm's length for the remaining 15 minutes allowing Aldenham to eventually run out 3-1 winners. With the 3<sup>rd</sup> round of the ISFA cup vs Newcastle on Wednesday this was a great result which should fill the boys with confidence for the biggest game of the season.

3<sup>rd</sup> XI

Draw 1-1

It was a gloriously sunny day when Aldenham 3<sup>rd</sup> XI took to a rain soaked pitch at Highgate. It seemed the chips were already stacked against us as we only had the bare eleven players with a few minutes to the kick off. However our sub was able to run from Highgate tube to get there in the nick of time (well done Hugo).

The game got off to a brisk start with plenty of fluent passing football on display. After ten minutes it was Highgate who took the lead from a corner. There was a goal mouth scrabble and their forward walked it in. Aldenham kept their heads up and played with renewed determination and were rewarded with a free kick five minutes later. Olli Young stepped up and projected the ball into the top right hand corner of the net Ronaldo style. Towards the end of the second half, our keeper for the day, Felix Hoh, with his lightening reflexes kept Aldenham in the game with a save from a shot from just four metres out.

In the second half Highgate were determined from the outset to secure victory. They embarked on wave after wave of attacking football only to be thwarted by a resilient performance by the back four – Hugo Harrison, Tom Clarke, Ben Boothby and Cemal Combat. Luke Quine and Matthew Goodfield were impressive on the flanks and Joe Brunner showed he was more than capable of threading through the well placed ball to the forwards. On the occasional break Boback Khodadoost and Chris Kelly were very busy and created chances. A special mention should go to Saahil Doshi-

Bilakhia who worked tirelessly defending the Aldenham goal in the second half – definitely the man of the match.