

National League Division 3 – Weekend 5– Crawley 17th/18th November 2007

Team:

1. **Simon Metcalfe**
2. **David Baxter**
3. **Allan Shepherd**
- 4.
5. **David Stewart**
- 6.
7. **Steven Adams**
8. **Ryan Laird**
9. **Callum MacGregor**
10. **Stewart Carlile**
11. **Lewis Don**
12. **Andrew Woodall**
13. **Calum Fraser**

Game 1:	Caledonia	12	Warley	10
Per 1:		3		2
Per 2:		3		3 (6-5)
Per 3:		3		2 (9-7)
Per 4:		3		3 (12-10)

Goal Scorers	Exclusions	Extra man situations	
C Fraser 5	D Stewart 1	Gained: 12	Conceded: 1
S Carlile 1		Scored: 3	Goals lost: 0
C MacGregor 3		Success – 25%	Success – 100%
D Baxter 1			
S Adams 1			
D Stewart 2			

Comment:

This was a very important win as without it we were struggling to continue to mount a challenge for the title.. The score line indicated a very close game with both halves being won by the narrowest of margins 6-5. In truth we had enough chances to win comfortably but with 9 extra man situations missed and a high turnover of possession around the centre forward area the game was closer than it could have been. Indeed if Warley had scored from their final possession after taking a time out then they would have gained a one goal deficit which, should the final points end equal, they would win on the aggregate scores between the two teams. It was a game though that we were never behind in and crucially from 5-5 towards the end of the second period we always managed to stay at least one goal in front. Although it was a game with many mistakes and an unusually indecisive defence the players worked very hard for a win.

Game 2:	Caledonia	13	South Derbyshire	12
Per 1:		3		3
Per 2:		4		2 (7-5)
Per 3:		4		2 (11-7)
Per 4:		2		5 (13-12)

Goal Scorers	Exclusions	Extra man situations	
C Fraser 4	R Laird 1	Gained: 12	Conceded: 4 + 1 pen
D Stewart 1	D Stewart 1	Scored: 3	Goals lost: 2 + 1 pen
S Carlile 1	D Baxter 1	Success - 25%	Success – 50%
D Baxter 2	S Carlile 1		
S Adams 1	A Shepherd 1		
A Woodall 1			
C McGregor 3			

Comment:

This was a very good victory in a closely contested game. In the end the score was very close but we were 3 up with less than a minute to go. It was though a little concerning that we lost late goals. The key to victory was a high energy pressing defence and a patient organised attack. We created many chances, had two seemingly good goals disallowed but again our man up attack was only 25% effective. The result was crucial though and with Invicta beating Warley we went into the last game against them needing to avoid defeat to win the league.

Game 3:	Caledonia	5	Invicta	15
Per 1:		1		1
Per 2:		0		6 (1-7)
Per 3:		2		3 (3-10)
Per 4:		2		5 (-)

Goal Scorers	Exclusions	Extra man situations	
C Fraser 1	S Adams 1	Gained: 7 + 1 pen	Conceded: 6 + 1 pen
D Baxter 2	D Baxter 1	Scored: (2 + miss pen)	Goals lost: 5 + 1 pen
S Adams 2	S Carlile 1	Success - 29%	Success – 83%
	C McGregor		
	C Fraser 1 + 1 pen		

Comment:

This was, as the score line suggests, a heavy defeat and a very disappointing end to the league campaign. With Andrew Woodall and Lewis Don returning to Manchester for GB training we were reduced to 9 men. This was certainly influential as they had both played excellently in the previous two games. Invicta used their 13 players to great effect playing a heavy and aggressive press and counter attack game. We did defend manfully with good goalkeeping too but whilst we did well to cover many of their breaks, the intensity of their play eventually wore us down and

after finishing the first period 1-1 they won the 2nd period 6-0 and pulled away to score a deserved victory. Our players worked very hard and it is not sour grapes to say that we did not get the rub of the green from the referees. That being said however, I do not think a reverse of some of the odder decisions would have lead to us winning, as in this game as in the previous two, our extra man situation was poor and did not pose sufficient threat to the opposition. Well done to Invicta for winning the league. They are a fit and hard working team who played very well on the day. I was disappointed however that some of their players felt the need to disrespect our players with immature and inciting behaviour. There was no need for it.

Other Notes:

At the end of the day we finished 2nd equal in the league with Warley but thanks to a better goal difference we secured the play off place. A post game team meeting indicated that some of the team wanted to take up the play off challenge but more did not. It could well be that we could have gotten a strong enough team down to Loughborough on 9th December, however even if we were to win this game it is unlikely that we would have a big enough squad to cope with the increased demands in the division above next year. With this decision, the team have another year to consolidate and have opportunity to continue to give experience to our younger players. In closing well done to all those players who committed much time, energy and finance to this years league campaign.

Running Totals:

Player	Games Played	Goals Scored	Exclusions
Simon Metcalfe	14		
David Baxter	14	34	7
Alan Shepherd	8	1	6
Neil Comerford	2		1
David Stewart	12	15	10
Callum MacGregor	11	26	8
Elliot Robertson	5	1	3
Ryan Laird	11	15	9
Stewart Carlile	14	10	6
Mark Speed	5	11	2
Calum Fraser	14	53	9 + 1 pen
Andrew Woodall	8	9	3
Robert Tate	6	1	
Steven Adams	12	21	8
Steven Cuthbert	5	4	4
Lewis Don	5	4	