

Southall played host to the Cup holders Rayners Lane FC in the 2nd round of The Middlesex County FA Intermediate Cup. On paper Rayners Lane, who ply their trade 2 levels above Southall, were the clear favourites.

Injuries also hindered Southall as they went into the game without a few regular players including Captain Marcus Denton, but confidence was running high throughout the squad due to the 100% start to the season.

The game started slowly as both teams tried to gain a foothold and an advantage. Rayners Lane had the better of the opening exchanges and produced the first real chance after 11 mins. A fine strike from outside the area had Southall keeper Damir Brujic springing to his left and getting his fingertips to the ball to push it just past his post. This marked the beginning of a decent passage of play from the visitors as they tried to turn their possession into goals but the Southall defence held strong and were able to weather the storm.

In the 26th min Southall finally came to life. Jerry Moses won the ball in the middle of the park and threaded a ball forward to Orin Fredericks. Fredericks turned and ran towards the Rayners Lane goal and as he did so, the defenders backed off. From 25yds Fredericks unleashed a powerful dipping shot which had the keeper Alan Gray beat all ends up but didn't dip enough and came crashing back off of the crossbar.

Within a minute Southall should have been awarded a penalty. Tesfa Lowe beat the offside trap and it became a race as to who would get to the through ball first, Lowe or the out rushing keeper. The Southall player was fastest and nudged it passed the now stranded keeper. All that was needed now was for Lowe to roll it into the empty net, but as he gathered the ball to do so he was bundled over by a Rayners Lane defender. The Referee blew his whistle immediately and both teams waited for the inevitable finger pointing towards the penalty spot and possible red card. But to everyones amazement the referee ran to the spot of the infringement and raised his arm to award an indirect free kick from 10yds. Rayners Lane were able to block the ensuing shot and relieve themselves of danger.

Southall dominated the latter part of the first half and continued to press to try to break the deadlock. With 3 mins left in the half Lowe beat the keeper with a close range shot but was denied a goal as a defender blocked the shot on the line at the near post. From the following corner Cris Barrett rose highest to meet the ball but was unable to direct his header on target.

The first half came to an end with the score 0-0 but with the score tied it was Southall who felt they had had the better opportunities and were the more dominant force.

The 2nd half continued as the 1st half had ended with Southall on top and pressing. Within 10mins of the restart two Rayners Lane players found their names in the referees book for what were silly, unnecessary and avoidable infringements. Southall began to sense the frustration running through the Rayners Lane players as wave after wave of attack bore down on the visitors goal.

Just after the hour mark Barrett won the ball in his own half and pushed the ball wide to Lowe who in turn found Chris Clafferty. Barrett continued his run forward and was found beautifully with a square pass from 25yds out. As the ball rolled across his body Barrett had only one intention and that was to hit it first time and bend it into the left corner. The shot was well on its way to breaking the deadlock when Rayners Lane keeper Gray pulled off a marvellous fully stretched save to deny Barrett his first of the season.

From the corner Rayners Lane could only half clear their lines and after some quick interplay and a one two movement between Fredericks and Ryan DeCosta, DeCosta rolled the ball to an on rushing Lowe who should have done better with his chance as he blasted it over the bar from 10yds.

After 66mins Gray was finally beaten in the Rayners Lane goal. After another poor clearance from a corner, Fredericks whipped the ball back in from the right hand sideline. The ball in was slightly behind DeCosta who stretched out a leg to control it just inside the area. Then in one swift move spun and unleashed an unstoppable half volley that was passed the keeper before he had time to react and was still rising as it thundered into the top of the net. The stalemate had finally been broken!

Rayners Lane reacted to going a goal down by throwing another forward on and it was substitute Charles Antwi who should have drawn Rayners Lane level. Antwi leapt to meet a cross and from 7yds out lamely headed the ball into the grateful Brujics arms.

Southall had been given a warning that the game was not yet won. In the 79th min Jerry Moses thought he had increased Southall's lead but was denied by Gray pulling off a brilliant one handed save.

Within 4 minutes Gray was beaten for the second time as Fredericks latched onto a Barrett through ball and calmly slid it underneath the advancing Gray into the bottom right hand corner. Fredericks finally got the goal his performance deserved.

2-0 to 'The 'All'. Southall had booked their passage into the last 16.

Fredericks nearly doubled his tally for the day as normal time expired when his shot beat the keeper but for the second time in the game, didn't beat the woodwork.

Rayners Lane the Cup holders were out.