

**Middlesex County Football League
Division One (Central & East)**

Saturday October 27th 2007

Stonewall 2 Southall 2

Southall lost their 100% start to their league campaign when they dropped two points away to bottom placed Stonewall.

Manager Ryan DeCosta gave a debut to three players for this match with Tyrone Bunting in central defence and Ian Whitmore and Spencer Hyland slotting into midfield roles.

The state of the pitch, bumpy and leaf strewn in places, was not conducive to the short passing style but Southall adapted well to this and started the match confidently and in total control. The opening quarter of an hour saw Southall come close four times – hitting the bar, header deflected wide and shots just over and just wide of the post. After 19 minutes the Southall dominance produced the goal they deserved. Orin Fredericks received the ball about 25 yards from goal and his accurate shot along the ground beat Eric Armanzi, the home goalkeeper, and found his right hand corner of the goal.

Southall continued to press and created further chances – Chris Clafferty fired over the bar from 20 yards, Cris Barrett headed wide and debutant Ian Whitmore hit the post after good build up play.

After 35 minutes Whitmore got onto the score sheet with a good finish steering the ball inside the post to give Southall a two goal lead.

Three minutes later Stonewall, who had looked ineffective and uncertain, were awarded a penalty when the ball struck the hand of Oscar Bryce and referee Gissendorf adjudged that Bryce had handled the ball. Raph Lennon made no mistake from the spot to bring the home team somewhat undeservedly back into the match. The half ended with no further score

HALF TIME: Stonewall 1 Southall 2

The second half saw the home side slowly drag themselves into the match although Southall had several opportunities to kill off the game.

Stonewall had the first opportunity of the second half when having evaded a static defence when James Allen fired wide from six yards.

In the next fifteen minutes Southall had several chances to put the game beyond the home side. Orin Fredericks was brought down just outside the area but the resultant free kick failed to test the home keeper. A goal bound shot was headed off the line and in quick succession a Fredericks shot was well saved by Armanzi and Barrett shot over from a good position.

As often seems to happen Southall were made to rue the missed opportunities when a minute later in the 70th minute Stonewall broke down the right hand side and Edward crossed the ball into the centre where Jamie Feldman, completely unmarked, had the easy task to fire past Brujic to level the scores.

The equaliser had a negative effect on the Southall side who looked a disjointed, dispirited outfit hardly able to string together two consecutive passes which was in

start contrast to the confident creative side that began the match. The only highlight in the last twenty minutes was a snapshot from DeCosta that went just wide.

FULL TIME: Stonewall 2 Southall 2

This was a match that Southall should have won. Certainly manager DeCosta was unimpressed with the overall performance and for the second week running was unable to name any player as the Man of the Match.

It is important to learn from this match and to realise that the team may be capable of playing a Step Six side off the park as they did with Rayners Lane but that each game is a new battle and that past performances and reputations count for nothing.