



# The Old Grammarian



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Season 2009 – 2010

Issue 8

Results for the weekend of: Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2009

					P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 <sup>st</sup> XI	5-5	HSBC	SAL	Berry 4, Laney	5	0	4	1	14	16	-2	4
2 <sup>nd</sup> XI	3-7	Old Bealonians	OBC	Chambers; Ricketts T	2	1	0	1	6	6	-	3
3 <sup>rd</sup> XI	8-1	Old Camdenians	SALC	Sterry 3; Lane 2; Flannery P; Garrard; Penny	4	1	1	2	7	8	-1	4
4 <sup>th</sup> XI	2-9	Old Actonians	SALC	Trim, Taz	4	3	0	1	13	7	6	9
5 <sup>th</sup> XI	2-1	Old Esthameians	SAL	Suant; Allen B	6	4	0	2	19	15	4	12
6 <sup>th</sup> XI	1-4	Old Parkonians	SAL		4	1	0	3	9	14	-5	3
7 <sup>th</sup> XI	0-5	Old Parmiterians	AFA		5	1	0	4	14	20	-6	3
8 <sup>th</sup> XI	2-1	Broomfield	SAL	White H; Killick	3	1	0	2	4	9	-5	3
Vets	2-1	Wood Green Old Boys	LOBC	Nelson, Allen B								
Ladies					7	2	1	4	13	21	-8	7

## Roy's Weekend Round Up

According to the media, last weekend was the most miserable of the year and those watching 20 goals going in against the EBOG teams at the Club on Saturday would hardly argue!

Not much feedback from the 1<sup>st</sup> team game apart from the usual hoax calls to the Club phone from Sean Carroll! They continued their bizarre quest to break an aggregate goals record! Every week the defence seems to set a higher and higher target for the attack to match and they are fortunate to have the talent of Sam Berry up front. They have shown themselves to be the equal of anyone in the Division, and apparently could have scored 10 down at HSBC, but they have got to sort it out at the back if they are going get to the right end of the table.

Unfortunately the 2<sup>nds</sup> are demonstrating similar weaknesses and were easily opened up by a nippy Bealonians' forward who notched 5 goals on his own! The 3<sup>rds</sup> continued their good run against admittedly weak opposition. However, unlike last week, they stamped their authority on the game and nobody better than Captain Lee Sterry who grabbed a hattrick from defence!

The 4<sup>ths</sup> were up against one of the best 4<sup>th</sup> teams in the Division above, so it was an opportunity to measure their good form this year against the best. Unfortunately they came up wanting. They held them for half an hour but once a fairly lucky goal went in they somewhat collapsed. At least they had a good look at what they should aspire to.

The 5<sup>ths</sup> are turning into the surprise package this season. They continued their good run with an efficient win over a 4<sup>th</sup> team and will at least retain their 2<sup>nd</sup> place. The lower teams were affected by thoughtless people dropping out at the last minute, or worse, just not turning up. In at least two cases, teams made themselves late by waiting for people who were never going to arrive! Just a phone call or even a text must surely be possible? Some were communications mix-ups but many were just selfish players who don't seem to realise that their actions can ruin everyone else's Saturday afternoon. The 6<sup>ths</sup> managed to scrape together 11 by calling in last minute replacements but, with Steve Down forced to go in goal, were again disappointed to lose to Parks 6<sup>ths</sup> the bottom side. (Curiously their 7<sup>ths</sup> are top!)

Our 7<sup>ths</sup> were the worst affected by the drop out mayhem and it was not until they arrived to face a strong Parmiterians side that they realised that they only had 10 men. These pressures make the Captain's job ten times harder and it is not surprising that results reflect it.

The only turn up for the book was the 8<sup>ths</sup>! Captain Harry was in total despair when at about 1.30pm he realised that, instead of 13 players he was expecting, he only had 9. He was considering scratching the game but through the considerable efforts of Sam Down and Chris Field on the phone he managed to rope in enough to get it started. We deserved a bit of luck after this, and, helped by a scorching free kick from Harry White, they came away from 2<sup>nd</sup> placed Broomfield with all 3 points!

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The team was in high spirits after some convincing wins and good confidence, and here comes a game that I knew would be difficult and a good test. Old Actonians over the years are known to be a hard outfit to beat and often arrive well organised. They had an unbeaten run and the aim was to ruin their party. After a few changes to our attacking formation and the welcoming of a couple of new players EBOG 4s knew what was expected... we knew we had to defend well and remain organised and communicate well.

Looking at the team I could see that they had a clear height advantage and the point was made to the team to keep the ball on the deck and play off each other. The point was also made to expect that they will be well organised and we had to communicate well and help each other. The pitch was in great condition and the surface was wet and had a nice skid on it. I knew if we played the ball to feet and played in pockets of triangles we could move the ball well and trouble them with good crisp passing. As the crippled captain on the sidelines I decided to leave the back four (Alex Williams and Hasan Ghani as centre backs and Dan Trim on the right with Colin Williams on the left) that had stood in over the last few weeks. We changed the midfield with the addition of Joe Turner in the middle to accompany the ever-reliable Adam Ghani and brought in Jack Gaul on the right flank.

From the kick off we started brightly and played exactly as I asked, showing for one another and moving the ball well along the deck. The 1st 25mins whizzed by with the possession dominated by EBOG, with at least 4-5 chances at goal we failed to take advantage. Most of these either coming from good work by Gino on the left flank or corners curled in by Adam Ghani. The oppo barely had a chance to get out of there half and I'm sure this wasn't what they expected. Then suddenly their midfield started to take some control and their very tall 6ft 4" Peter Crouch lookalike drifted from the flank and moved into the centre without being tracked and they started to get around the back of us. Suddenly their central midfielder found himself ahead of Hasan at centre half and looked goal bound, however Hasan had different thoughts and put in a fine challenge from behind him and took the ball out of his reach as he closed in on the goal. A great sliding tackle from behind and we looked to have got away with it, however as he slid in and took the ball away the oppo player managed to get the ball to his feet for the 2nd time and poked the ball forward, which caught Hasans arm as he tried to pick himself up from the sliding tackle. The ref immediately blew for a harsh penalty decision. The oppo took their penalty well and you could see the relief considering that they failed to make any attacks in opening 30mins of the game.

I looked around the pitch and knew the penalty decision had some impact on some of the team, some wanted to come out and put up a challenge some looked like they had a tough 60 mins left to play. The immediate thing to notice was that we failed to communicate and make ourselves more available when we made good attacks or when we defended. We have to learn its simply not good enough finding space and not making it clear to

the ball player, you have to come forward and want the ball and you simply are not going to get that ball unless you call and make your self more visible. We started to lose shape as we tried to gain a goal back and this left gaps that the oppo now started to expose. Within the next 15 mins we found ourselves 4-0 down and each of their goals came from balls coming across the box and our failure to clear our lines or not marking our players. We need to learn that we can attack and score goals for fun, however all that good work can be undone if we don't concentrate to defend as a team.

Bringing on Harry to replace Jack on the right flank and Mark for Nick Lowe (for height advantage and no other reason!). The 2nd half pretty much consisted of the same. We attacked well and defended poorly as a unit. Adam then started to lose momentum due to an earlier tackle and was replaced with Taz. We managed to get a couple of consolation goals, with Dan Trim driving in a rocket from about 40yds that left the keeper standing rooted and a well worked goal with good work from Gino on the flank and a good cross that the mighty man mountain Taz threw his head and nodded in. Also have to mention that Goran failed to take advantage of a penalty that he got, and blasted at the keeper who parried over the bar.

Overall conclusion is that we wont come across many teams as well organised as this and maybe a few us need to look at how well their TEAM played. I can honestly say that as individual players you were better than them, however they played as a team and left us standing and scratching our heads. Their manager summed it all up as he came up to me after the game and said, " It definitely wasn't a 9-2 game for us, your team was one of the best I've seen to attack, however you defended poorly!!". He hit the nail on the head... If we want to win, we need to learn to defend as a team!!

**SCRIBE:** Shane Khan

Team: Caskie, Ghani H, Williams A, Williams C, GhaniA, Turner J, Gino, Gaul J, Goran, Lowe N, Subs: Taz, Harry, Mark.



Another scrabble for players, 6 changes from the selected team and the bare 11, you know its going to be tough when you have 2 new players to the club and one of them from kick off passes the ball backwards to himself then goes off on a run with the ball and the other does 3 consecutive foul throws!

I think it is fair to say the constant changes to the side meant we were at sixes and sevens to start, with again no recognised goalkeeper we went a goal down to a long shot then 2 down after a sloppy free kick, but we rallied and got one back before half time.

Second half we came back well, their keeper dropped a ball and Phil Sellers put it in the net, goal awarded, then the opposition moaned and the decision was reversed. We had a second disallowed, although cant remember the events around it. Then to 22 peoples surprise a penalty was awarded when the ball, and



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in my opinion hit Ben Moss on the chest and we were 3-1 down. Shane kindly came on as sub but we pushed on but conceded a fourth. Something has to happen with selection and availability because no side will do well with an average of 6 changes from Friday night to Saturday morning.

**SCRIBE: Steve Down**

Team: Down S, Down S, D Moukory, D Pratt, P Ruddling, B Moss, S Saunders, L Parsonage, D Lynch, P Sellers, S Wilson.

**SAL**



**EBOG 8<sup>XI</sup> 2 – 1 Broomfield XI**

Killick, White



Best performance for the 8<sup>th</sup>s so far this season and very much deserving our first win and getting 3 points in the bag.

Before the match was a complete shambles. 4 players dropping out on me on Saturday morning left me with 10 men for the match. 2 of these players not even letting me know they couldn't play which I was not happy with. However, thanks to Steve Down, he handed me two of his players, both from the school.

I didn't have a hope for the game ahead and quite frankly was expecting us to get thrashed. My only hope was that the 4 new 'school boys' were going to be good on their debut and this was definitely the case.

We started the game brilliantly, defending superbly and having attacks. Grant Killick put us 1-0 up with a good run and good through ball put through by Simon Grostate at the back, and a perfect chip over the keeper by Killick. Broomfield had a couple of good chances but Matt Freeman in goal denied them of a goal. A great first half display.

Second half we proved we were the better team playing some really good football both at the back and at the front. Harry White scored his first goal for the club with a free-kick in the 75th minute, curling it into the top corner.

With 15 minutes to play, it was looking good but Broomfield were awarded a penalty with 5 minutes to play which they scored. Everyone behind the ball defending for our lives! We hang on in there and fought our way for the 3 points.

A superb effort for everyone on the team apart from myself who came on for the last 10 minutes, missed a sitter, got booked for a bad tackle, and went off again!!

Players to mention is everyone! A great performance in goal by Matt Freeman. A superb debut for Amin at center-back, Chris Field in centre mid and James and Kilo. Simon Grostate lead the back four and we couldn't have done it without him. A superb influence on the back four and should be moved up. As should Mark Zdybel who was man of the match again at left-back. Superb marking, superb pace and great going forward given the instruction. Should be moved up.

A special thank you to Paul Field who helped out before and

during the game.

**SCRIBE: Harry Bassant**

Team: GK Freeman, LB Zdybel, CB Grostate, CM Amin, RB Cameron, LM James, CM Arfa, CM Field C, RM Kilo, CF Killick G, CF White, Sub: Bassant (c).

**SAL – SATURDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER**



**EBOG 6<sup>XI</sup> 4 – 5 Old Parkonians XI**

Hodgson 2; Lynch D; Samford



Another frantic scrabble for players, 7 changes from the team selected with 2 conjured up on the day, we started with no recognised keeper and just 11 men.

This could have meant a team with low morale but none of it was shown in this competitive game played in excellent spirit by both sides.

We took the lead with a great goal by Jordan Sanford but conceded a goal soon after. They had some good players including a 6'4 midfielder who ran the show for them. 2-2 at half time we came out and were playing well with lots of possession but no end product.

A combination of poor recycling of the ball in midfield and getting caught square at the back gave them 2 goals plus a great finish from Ben Moss, in his own net meant we were 5-2 down.

To our credit we did not complain but kept plugging away and got our reward with a penalty from a well worked move and then a 4th goal to set up and exciting end.

Credit to the side, I am sure if we can just stop having so many changes and get some consistency we will be back to winning ways

**SCRIBE: Steve Down**

Team: Down S, Down S, D Moukory, D Pratt, P Ruddling, B Moss, S Saunders, L Parsonage, D Lynch, P Sellers, S Wilson.

**9<sup>th</sup> XI**

The 9<sup>th</sup>s victory last week was not without a price. Paul Lockley ruptured his Achilles tendon on Saturday and is now in plaster for 6 weeks!

He was sporting a pair of crutches at the Club on Saturday. Best wishes for a speedy recovery.

Tony Brown pulled his hamstring, and demonstrates the dangers of playing only infrequently. However, everyone else is only aching and not disabled so there may be enough left for the Cup game this Saturday!



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## Changing Rooms

After a good run, where the 1<sup>st</sup> team has excelled, the sweeping up of the changing rooms has fallen away again. The rooms were completely unswept on Saturday on the first wet day of the season. Please look to see if your team is nominated for this or the bar, and help out.

## Roof

Lee Sterry and his firm Deardon Roofing have done the preparation work on the middle section of the roof and hope to finish the job this week although the poor weather prospects may hold things up. The sooner the better as this section is in a particularly poor state.

Funding is going well but: More donations please!

[www.Justgiving.com/ebog-roof](http://www.Justgiving.com/ebog-roof)

## Little Walters Blues Club

Mick Hammersley, a long time former, if inaccurate(!), EBOG centre forward, is now fronting a monthly Blues Club at The Maltings Art Centre, St. Albans.

The Little Walters Blues Club aim is to showcase top talent playing all types of Blues from Delta, funk, gospel and Chicago blues. The venue is in a Theatre setting with tiered seating and superb acoustics and sound. The front of the stage has café style tables laid out that give a real club feel and yes there is a bar!

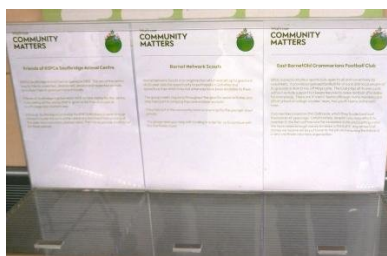
The club is up and running and receiving good reviews from the local press. Some EBOGS have already been spotted there dancing the night away. If Blues is your thing contact [www.littlewaltersbluesclub.co.uk](http://www.littlewaltersbluesclub.co.uk) for all the details.

<b>Saturday Manager:</b>	John Curran
<b>Lock Up:</b>	Chris Warne

## Leading Goalscorers

<u>Player</u>	<u>No. of Goals</u>
Berry	10
Penny	7
Kucinovic; Lane	5
Finney T; Flannery D; Gale; Lynch D; Sterry;	4
Allen B; Chambers; Challis; Garrard; Laney; Martin; Mayer; Reade; Ricketts T; Siddique R; Suant; Trim	3
Ghani A; Gino; Hodgson; Lewis; Nelson; Pratt; Samford; Seller P; Weightman T;	2

## Shop at Waitrose (Barnet) to help your Club



The month is nearly up for the money raising bid at **Waitrose** in High Barnet.

We're lagging behind to strong contenders, Southridge Animal rescue centre and the Boy Scouts so get up there and put more tokens in our bin. We stand to gain a proportion of £1000 contribution

**Please make as many visits as you can and spread this message to your family.**

## VCRs

The Club needs old but working VHS video recorders for use with cameras. If you have an old VCR spare please contact Roy on 01707 661722 and/or bring it down to the Club when you can. A DVD recorder would do just as well but these are less likely to be spare.

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