

The SAL Standard

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Editor: A. Copeland

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 **GLEMNET**
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TELECOMMUNICATIONS FOR BUSINESS

ANNUAL DINNER

The 2013 Annual Dinner will take place on Friday 14 June, 7pm for 7.30 at the Royal National Hotel, Bedford Way WC1H 0DG.

There will be an emphasis on the aesthetic with photos of the season's football around the hall plus team photos of all winning teams.

The ticket price remains £32.00 and you can register online via the league website on the [Dinner Page](#).



SUMMER RAIN AT BROOMFIELD

Summer is here at last, something I found out on Saturday at the AFA Senior Cup final between Old Salesians and Old Minchendenians. A lovely day of football at Old Chigwellians – who were the perfect hosts – has left me with a stinking cold from spending most of the afternoon wiping raindrops from my camera lense and gradually looking and more like a drowned rat.

Still, we are at least getting lighter evening and I look forward to taking in some title deciding midweekers as the month goes on. I also hope see some more cup finals and take in the occasion and the joy of those involved. In the meantime, good luck to all for the run-in!

Winners Photos

It's that time of year so help us make the most of it. Submit your team photos at www.southernamateurleague.co.uk/winners so we can show you off on the website, in the Standard and at the Award Dinner in June.



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Editorial

Andy Copeland



THE EDITOR: ANDY COPELAND

I must begin this month by expressing my sadness at the passing of four stalwarts of our game. More follows in the next section on three of these (I'm afraid news of Bob Green's death came too late for this issue) but it is fair to say that men such as these are the corner stones on which our game is built and they will be sorely missed.

Another death you will need no telling about was that of former prime minister Margaret Thatcher. Her passing has sparked intense reactions with many people celebrating and others condemning them. She was undoubtedly a figure which divided opinion.

The split amongst those involved in football tells a tale. Dave Whelan and John Madejski – wealthy businessmen able to build stadiums and buy football clubs – called for remembrance at the weekend's matches. Most others appear delighted to be shot of Thatcher. The minutes' silence called for by Whelan and Madejski was mercifully not observed as I am in doubt that it would have been disturbed in scenes that would have given credit to no one.

At a stretch I could suggest she played a part in the Hillsborough disaster as her dislike of the game and its supporters was reflected by many in the corridors of power at the time, and the treatment of those Liverpool fans bore, in my opinion, the hallmarks of those who see their quarry and unimportant and distasteful. I can't imagine the same happening at a rugby match.

But that would probably be unfair. Thatcher didn't like football. Neither did football. The real cause of Hillsborough was a malaise which had existed, mostly within the game itself, which infected attitudes towards ground improvements and security. Any attitudes which saw football fans as cattle had their routes in football alone.

Elsewhere, another long standing legacy of the Thatcher era was one of the most grandly named divisions in football. Sadly it was disbanded in 2011 as the Central Midlands League opted for North and South Divisions over its previous vertical structure. But from 1983 until 2011 the league's top tier was known as the *Supreme Division*! You don't get much grander than that.

This was a direct result of the miners' strike which saw Nottinghamshire miners continue to work while Yorkshire miners downed tools. Teams from the two counties met often in league and cup matches in the Midland League and later the Northern Counties (East) League.

As the striking continued the temperature rose between teams from the two counties. Players and fans were being bussed in and out of towns with police

escorts at a level where matches barely drew 100 fans. Eventually it became impossible to continue.

The Derbyshire Premier League had operated since 1971 with a Premier Division and a First Division. A name change to the Central Midlands League was the first step in allowing the Nottinghamshire clubs to join. But ordinarily, like the SAL, the CML would have required new clubs to start at the bottom. It wouldn't have been fair to shunt all the existing clubs down. The problem with this was that the NCEL teams were of a higher standard.

The solution was to retain the existing Derbyshire Premier League structure and stick a new division on top. But what goes on top of the Premier Division? Premier itself is supposed to be the very top of the league. Eventually the solution was found with the new Supreme Division and everyone was so delighted they forgot about the strikes and went back to work. OK, the last bit isn't quite true but I'm telling a story here and I hope you enjoyed your little bit of history.

Graham Hugill

It has been a difficult month in the SAL as we have had to bid our farewells to four stalwarts of our game. That word – stalwart – is easily used but it is fairly used in these situations. A great many people spend a lot of their lives watching and supporting football, generally investing huge amounts of time, money and emotion in the game.

We are fortunate in the Southern Amateur League that figures such as those we have lost are revered for their efforts – most of the time. The following men made big sacrifices for the benefit of their clubs, clubs made up of members – you. So please take a moment to remember these men, stalwarts' stalwarts if you will, who have made our game a reality over the years.

I'm sorry to say that the news of Bob Green's death came too late to include a feature in this issue but that will be rectified in May. For the meantime, I give you Graham Hugill, Mike Denbigh and Mike Teare.

Graham Hugill

Graham was a League Management Committee member serving as Minor Reports Card Secretary and Secretary to the Communications, Technology & Development Sub-Committee at the time of his death. He was also an active member of the Southgate Olympic club committee.

Southgate's Arthur Cornish has provided these words:

Graham joined Southgate Olympic in the mid-1980s, he was at that time attached to a Sunday side, helping out with their admin and finances, two players in the team also played for Southgate and through them he expressed an interest to join our club. We didn't know at the time how pivotal his joining us would be.

One thing we knew about Graham at the outset was his passion for Tottenham Hotspur, and on alternate Saturdays, being a season ticket holder he would go along to White Hart Lane to watch a game, along with his family.

Graham was a quiet person but always put his point across at meetings by using facts or his recollection of past experience, but he always listened to the other person's point of view and then made his judgement on



what he thought was right for the club.

From quite early on and in what turned out to be continuous service to our club, Graham served in a number of committee roles, ranging from, Secretary, Treasurer, Bar Chairman and Social Chairman, he was in fact our current Secretary and Bar Chairman until he was taken ill late last year.

On top of his club commitments he also found time to be a representative on the SAL and currently held the position as minor results card officer and Secretary to the Communications, Technology & Development Sub-Committee. Further more he was also Treasurer to the joint Northampton Exiles cricket club and Southgate Olympic building and maintenance committee, (NEASO), for which both clubs are extremely grateful.

Graham loved a beer and nothing more than to watch and to talk about football, we will all miss him, but I know his memory will live on.

Thank you Graham and God Bless.

Mike 'Radio' Denbigh

Another stalwart of AFA football, Norsemen president Mike Denbigh, also passed away in April. "Radio" was a well loved character both at Norsemen and beyond.

As that other Blue Giant, Forbes Chapman, explains, Mike got his nickname from his penchant for betting on the horses.

Says Forbes, "He always took a radio out with him and put it in the back of goal, so he could listen to the racing results while he was playing.

One day he had this radio in the goal and he was so busy listening to a race that he let in a goal.

Peter Rogers – another of our players – was so angry he kicked the radio through the back of the goal and smashed it to pieces!" I am assured that no further races were monitored on that particular radio and that from then on the name Radio stuck.

Mike joined Norsemen at the age of 19 in 1961. He captained a number of Norsemen teams including the Vets and also served as Team Secretary and Match Secretary. In 2006 he became Club President, a role he would fill for the rest of his days, completing 52 years as a Blue Giant by 2013.

Mike's Funeral will take place on Thursday 18 April with a wake, fittingly, at Norsemen Football Club from 4pm.

The funeral will take place at Harwood Park Crematorium, Watton Road, Stevenage, Herts SG2 8XT at 2.00pm to be followed by a wake at Norsemen Football Club, Church Street, Edmonton N9 9LH from 4pm.



MIKE DENBIGH (RIGHT) WITH IAN CHARLES

Mike Teare

Colin Michael 'Mike' Teare joined Lloyds Bank AFC in 1956 and served as a player for 42 years, finally hanging up his boots in 1998. During this time he covered numerous roles for the club and became Vic-Chairman in 1978, stepping up to the role of Chairman in 1981.

Stepping down from his position as club chairman in 1988 Mike was made Life Vice-President of the club. His continued support and interest in the club over the next two decades saw him rewarded with the role of Club President in 2006, a role he held until his death.

In 2010 Mike was honoured by the Football Association itself with a Fifty Years Continuous Service Award, supported by the Southern Amateur League and the Amateur Football Alliance – well deserved.

On a personal note, your editor met Mike just the once, at the Lloyds Bank AFC Centenary Dinner in 2003 where he was fortunate enough to sit next to the man. Apart from enjoying some wonderful stories about the history of the club, I left with a Lloyds Bank AFC club tie, a gift from Mr Teare and a very kind gesture.



CLUB PROFILE



Founded: 1910

Home Ground

Joseph Hood Recreation Ground
Martin Way
Morden SW20 9BU

www.mertonfc.co.uk
[@MertonFC1910](https://twitter.com/MertonFC1910)

Merton FC, the oldest amateur soccer club in the Borough of Merton is celebrating its 102nd season. From humble origins in 1910, the club has grown steadily and is now firmly established with 6 regular senior teams playing on Saturdays. We also run a women's side and a youth Sunday side. Our original colours were gold mauve and chocolate but we had over the years morphed into yellow and black and then in 2005 changed to all yellow as a rather trendy attempt



MERTON 1ST XI

at branding. We were the only SAL club in all yellow but the next seasons potential new entrants threaten our uniqueness.

Merton FC went straight into the Southern Amateur League, which started three years before the club. For the first 30 years of its life, the club shared a pitch with Merton Hockey Club on the John Innes Recreation Ground in Merton Park. A first and reserve team were fielded along with a third side known as the "Strollers" who played friendly games away from home. The "Strollers" were older, senior players who needed to be as good at drinking and socialising as they were

at football to qualify for the team. This was, so as to enable them to obtain and keep the best available fixtures.

During the Second World War, Merton managed to field one regular home side. Any member who was in the services was always offered a game to make his stay at home more enjoyable. The club played some memorable games at this time, often against professional clubs. One of the regular fixtures was against the Scots Guards from Pirbright Barracks. On one special occasion, they turned up with their band, bagpipes, kilts and all, providing Merton with its biggest crowd for years.

In the 1946/7 season the first team were Division 1 Champions, clinching the title over Easter with two crucial games, beating Hastings 3-2 and Eastbourne 5-1, the resulting celebrations caused the coach journey back to London to take more than eight hours. The Amateur Football Alliance has provided some memorable games for Merton, among them an away game against Old Chesterfieldians, which we lost 5-4, the same Merton player scored all four goals but still got some stick on the way home for not scoring more.



THE CLUB ON MATCH DAY (WITH OLD WESTMINSTER CITIZENS)

Merton Council helped the club improve their ground and at the end of the 70's the club itself spent £3,500 on improvements with the labour provided by the players in their spare time. Merton's other claim to fame is that Efan Ekoku once of Wimbledon FC played for the club in the season 1987/88, also representing the league and AFA side. Alan Pardew, who is a local lad, trained us for a couple of seasons before he became famous.

In the 1988/89 season, the 1st team won the division three title and the Surrey AFA Senior Cup. 1989 was a sad year as the club lost its President Bill Cox who died suddenly in December he had been with the club since 1932.

We have been a little more successful in recent years. 2004/05 the 2nd team winning their respective division, 2005/06 the 1st and 5th teams winning their respective divisions and 6th team gaining promotion. 2006/07 the 4th team gained promotion. 2007/08 the 3rd team gained promotion. The first team were promoted back to division 2 in 2010/11. The 3s were Junior Div 3 champ last year. Our 1s, 2s and 3s are currently all in division 2 of their respective sections (and 1s and 3s fighting to stay there.)

Although the Hood, our home ground leaves a little to be desired we have a friendly social atmosphere in our bar and provide a hot meal to all players at the end of the games.

In 1990 the clubhouse at our spiritual home John Innes Recreation Ground was set ablaze by vandals, and was rebuilt in 1992 and opened by the Mayor of Merton. In 1999 the club moved to

Merton F.C.



THE HOOD – NO GAMES TODAY...

its present home at Joseph Hood Recreation Ground, Martin Way, Morden where we can accommodate 3 home teams each week and provide better facilities.

In 2010 we celebrated our centenary with a dinner, a club day and match against the league Rep side which was well attended. We were a little cautious in our celebrations as we did not want to over commit and up losing money. Financial management is key to existence and as a result we have reached some financial stability but this season with so many postponements we will be taking a hit on our reserves. We have been putting money aside for a rainy day and we have had a lot of them this season.

Socially

We are a friendly social club with a small welcoming bar. I think someone described our bar after 3 home games on a Saturday as very

old fashioned “a bit like the SAL in the 60s” and I took that as a real compliment. We do have a few social functions. We have a Christmas party and the main features are an end of season “Awards Night” which we try and hold on Cup Final day and play a few games. Then there is our traditional ‘Long Good Friday’ where we usually have 3 or 4 games and keep the bar open all day. This year because there were league fixtures we just had the one against an all-star vets side from Old Westminster Citizens who beat us 4-2. But apparently we won the drinking competition but I am not sure that has finished yet. One of the peculiarities of Merton is a drinking game called ‘The Game of Life’ and this often features in the bar on a good Saturday night basically golf balls dropped in unattended drinks resulting in pints being downed in one...



THE GAME OF LIFE

Challenges facing the Club and Amateur Football clubs

From its very beginnings in 1910 and for its entire history Merton has rented its pitches and changing rooms from the Council. In the early days owning your own ground enabled you to charge spectators and laid foundations for professional clubs. When we played clubs like Ipswich Town in the twenties in the SAL we played both games away because they would give us a share of the gate; we could not charge at our home game. It is rumoured that a crowd of 6,000 watched one such encounter.

But now as the council budgets are squeezed, maintenance is reduced and the pitches are deteriorating. In order to increase revenues the



SUITED AND BOOTED – “TEAM HANDSOME” IN CUP FINAL MODE

councils are increasing their charges and despite the deterioration of condition they are over using their pitches. There is little capital expenditure on new facilities. Now Banks and schools are finding it ever more difficult to justify the expenditure on sporting facilities. With all the challenges facing our society I believe investment in sporting facilities for our mainstream popular and traditional sports, especially football, would be well rewarded in reducing anti-social behaviour obesity and give people a sense of purpose and community. So now, we, more than

others need new facilities and we have joined a local community group to take over and refurbish Morden Park with new pitches, a floodlit 3G pitch and new state of the art changing rooms for a multi sports/social complex. It is an ambitious scheme but there a lot of committed people driving it forward. There is a long way to go with planning permission required and the need to raise a substantial sum of money, which won't be easy as other projects compete for limited grants. So we continue to see the Hood as our long term home and are still lobbying the council to do work on the pitches in the summer. We will have working parties this summer reseeding, filling holes and divoting as necessary to supplement the council's summer maintenance before the season begins.

This year the weather has highlighted our plight and others. I have become a big supporter of 3G pitches. I believe that young talent from 6+ should be able to develop their skills on these surfaces rather than chase round in ankle deep mud which becomes the survival of the strongest. Also we need to have the



NEW BLOOD: MERTON UNDER 15s



OLD FAITHFULL: CENTENARY VETS

facility available so that football can be played in the monsoon season. This year especially, the Hood was more like the Somme and football was impossible there. One of our teams only played 3 games in the three months December to February. Players want to play every week, they don't want to play half their season in April and May trying to get off work early for a 6pm kick off on the other side of London. The availability of 3G pitches will help avoid this build up of fixtures, keep members interested during bad weather and underpin the integrity of the league competition which is threatened by the lottery of availability for midweek fixtures.

Professional/Commercial clubs should be made to do more (as in something) to help provide these sort of community facilities. They make enormous sums out of football and their academies are only driven by self interest. They talk about football in the community but essentially they are looking for top talent and creaming that off. It is the SAL and the like that are providing football in the community at grassroots level for a wide range of abilities and providing a service to the Community.

Memberships

We run 6 adult teams a Youth team and a women's team and have 120+ members. We charge £60 annual membership and £10 per game. This will have to increase next year as we are having a poor year with so many Saturdays abandoned our bar revenues upon which we depend are greatly reduced. Mid week games just don't have the same takings as a good Saturday. Attracting good new members is always high on our agenda. As we are not a company based team or old school side we do not have a natural feed of new members but rely on word of mouth and friends of members. This

season we are now linked into the local 'Little League' that plays on Saturday mornings at our ground and has about 120 8-13 year olds playing. So we have now started a Sunday youth team to cater for these players when they are too old for the Little League. This year we had an Under 15 team but next season we may have an U14, U15 and U16 teams as well as a girls' team. This is still in the early stages and Youth Football has its own challenges. We will need even more committed administrators as well as managers and coaches and some sponsorship would be nice.

Again members want regular football with good facilities. The decline in 11 aside football has much to do with the deterioration of facilities but also the expense and time of travel across London on Saturdays for sub-standard facilities. Clubs on the outskirts of London have easier car journeys into their local counties where generally facilities are better.

Like all clubs we are indebted to a few administrators who run the club and coach and manage the teams and who keep the show on



THE 3RD XI IN ACTION AT TOOTING



1ST XI ACTION VS OLD FINCHLEIANS AND TOOTING 3G

the road. Everyone is so busy now that there is little time for the extra layers of administration but it is very necessary to keep the SAL at the top of the tree. We depend on Mike "Mustard" Reed our current secretary, Len Freeman (Treasurer), Mark Chappell (Fixtures) Simon "Clappers" Clapperton (everything!) Matt Haswell (Communications) and Peter Kemp (bar). Terry Baker is our hard working and hard worrying president, who has supported the club for over 30 years. We are trying to get some more younger members involved so Alex Herbert and Lee Lenihan are also helping out in many ways on the committee. The Captains and managers of each of our six times have to do a lot of organising as well. We have a few stalwart supporters, Roger Mann, the Dodge and Dixie who shout support.

We support the Respect programme but wish it was enforced by the Premier League. It really would help at grassroots level if the 'stars' were disciplined and the rules enforced by the referees in the same way they do in the SAL.

Discipline and its enforcement is an issue this season and the committee will be addressing this.

This season

The 1st XI have been in a relegation fight at the bottom of division 2 but if they continue their improved form they should survive. The 2s are moving towards the top of Division 2 but weather and a good cup run that took them to the final of the AFA Surrey/Kent Cup means they

have to contend with a lot of midweek fixtures. The Cup Final was a great day although the self styled 'Team Handsome' lost 4-0 to a very good West Wickham side it was well organised by the AFA and brilliantly hosted by Old Wilsonians.

Having won promotion only last year, the 3s are struggling. The 4s have had good cup runs and will finish near the top of their division. The 5s have been going well and are pushing for at least promotion. The 6s had a great unbeaten start but have faded a little. Because of postponements all our sides have a backlog of fixtures and are having to cope with less than ideal midweek arrangements and double headers.

We won't be going on the Annual Tour to the Algarve this year to play in the Algarve Trophy. It has been great fun for the past three years but expense is an issue and a tour to Newcastle is being mooted.



BOYS ON TOUR: THE ANNUAL TRIP TO THE ALGARVE

Len Wilcock

Key facts

ROLE: Referee

PLAYING POSITION: right winger, then midfielder, then right back and eventually centre half

SUPPORTS: West Ham United

Len Wilcock is one of the most recognisable characters in AFA football. Unsurprisingly his no nonsense style of refereeing does not endear him to everyone but he is certainly an asset to AFA football, not just on the field of play but in the training room too, where he is responsible for bringing through the next generation of referees.

Hi Len. Thanks for taking the time to answer a few questions. First of all, how did you become a referee?

I played in a game where an unqualified Referee who was fully kitted out (complete with Surrey FA badge) nearly caused a riot through his naivety/incompetence, and as I was approaching the end of my playing days and the coaching was not all it was cracked up to be, I decided that I'd take a Ref's course and the rest, as they say, is history.....

How long have you been refereeing?

I ref'd my first ever game as a qualified Referee on 12th November 1988. Bank of England 5th XI 0 Cuaco 5th XI 2.

Apart from refereeing, what else are you involved with, football-wise?

I'm a licensed Referee tutor and I train Referees for Herts FA and London FA as well as the AFA.

What do you think are the biggest issues confronting professional football today?



LEN WILCOCK

Domestically St. Georges Park has to work in order for the England National side to maintain its status as a top 5 nation and we also need managers to be given more time in their jobs and stop the influx of very average/inferior foreign players that stifle the development of our own home grown talent. No one has a problem with the Bergkamps etc. But Luis Boa Morte?!

We produce many terrific young players who are ruined by the system that exists in the professional game. The other home nations need to tailor their national leagues so that they are (a) more competitive and (b) Financially viable. Worldwide, I believe that match fixing is rife and in order to deal with it strong action such as life bans should be imposed.

What do you think are the biggest issues confronting SAL/AFA football today?

The main issues with the clubs are the availability of players and the creation of "clubs within clubs". We all know when this is happening but the problem the clubs have is that the players hold all the cards as they know that if the club won't agree to them playing for say the 5th XI with their mates – even though they're 1st XI standard – there will be another club that will. As far as refereeing is concerned, we need to show new referees a clear "career path" with level 4 and beyond being the clear aim.

If you could change one law of football, what would it be and why?

Not much really, I think that in the main the laws are about right. The thing I would like to do is relax the mandatory directives that we as referees have to follow which would reduce the number of cautions & dismissals in the game, but the thing is that the extra cautions are now embedded in the culture of the game and the players demand it.

What change(s) would you make to professional football for the good?

Reduce the reliance on and obsession with money.

What change(s) would you make to SAL/AFA football for the good?

I would create an AFA County Senior League with the SAL and AFC feeding into it, thus creating an AFA "pyramid". It would make it more competitive and improve standards

Who is the best referee you have worked with?

3 spring to mind immediately. Adrian Gillett from Berks & Bucks FA who is currently a Football League assistant referee, Gary Evetts from Herts FA who is a good friend and will be stepping down as a Football league assistant referee at the end of the season and Alf Street of Middlesex FA, another good friend who rose to level 3 within 4 years of qualifying and would have gone all the way had he started younger. All 3 are brilliant "man managers" and have outstanding all round ability as referees.

Which is the best team you've encountered in SAL/AFA football?

The Nottsborough side of recent years takes some beating and Actonians had a very strong side 10 or so years ago. For the future I would look out for both Old Garchonians and from outside the SAL, Old Minchendenians.

Anything else?

Enjoy the game and make the most of it, that's why it was given to us.

Thanks Len. Enjoy the rest of your season, Andy.

Final Fever



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JUNIOR
CHALLENGE CUP

Saturday 20 April, 3pm
at East Barnet Old Grammarians

Nottsborough 3rd



Old Owens 3rd

From Nottsborough's David Shaw

Nottsborough 3s joined the SAL Junior Cup trail in Round 3, eager to boost a strong league campaign with a good cup run. Ibis 3s were our first opponents in what appeared to be a traditional banana skin fixture away on a predictably loose winter pitch. However a competent performance from the away team saw Nottsborough run out 3-1 victors despite a spirited performance from the lower league team. Goals from veteran striker David Shaw and two from the boot of George Bowman, including a clear contender for goal of the season, saw the red and blacks make safe passage.

Next up were league rivals West Wickham who arrived at Tolworth with a commanding position in the league and reason to believe that an away win was in the offing. Nottsborough, however, put in one of their performances of the season as Aonghus Martin (2) and Chris Marie (penalty) scored the goals in a convincing 3-0 victory with a MOM performance from the mercurial Paul Fynes doing much of the damage.

Confidence therefore was high going into the semi-final against a rejuvenated Kew Association team who hadn't lost since October. An end to end game befitting of a semi-final saw Nottsborough edge a tight game 2-1 and progress to the final, however there was much more to this game than the score. Nottsborough initially had the best of the game and went 1-0 with what seemed relative ease. However, a lively Kew team dragged themselves back into the game with an equaliser before earning a penalty. In the turning point of the game, home keeper George Thomas pulled off an excellent penalty save which gave Nottsborough the confidence to push for what ultimately was the winner from the head of centre half Lee Westley/boot of Leon Roberts (they are still arguing over this one).

Cup final opponents Old Owens have always provided strong opposition and there is no doubt in the Nottsborough changing room that only a quality performance from the red and blacks will bring the cup back to Tolworth for the third time in four years.

From Old Owens' Will Kumar

It has been almost 3 years since a group of late 20-somethings came back to revitalise the Old Owen's 3rd XI, winning the league and coming runners up to a very strong Old Salesians in the AFA Cup. It was a great season and, in hindsight, it may have been good to go out at the top. But the draw of another season and potentially winning trophies was too big for almost all of us.

The past two seasons have been poor relative to our 2010/11 season. An Old Boys Cup Final defeat to Old Parkonians summed up what was a relatively lacklustre season last year. This season has been equally poor by our somewhat high standards. The general availability of players has been weak, but given the older than average age of our team, the injuries are more frequent, as are the weddings, stag do's and WAG responsibilities. So whilst unavailability is a factor all teams have to deal with, it is still frustrating - a key to any good side is consistent availability of players.

Having staved off relegation, no one is more surprised to be in a League Cup Final than myself given our form in league and cup. However, the team has been galvanised by a horrific and unfortunate injury to Greg Hodge earlier in the cup run which has probably resulted in us giving that little bit extra in this competition. The quarter final of the cup was one of our best performances of the season, showing character to come back and win convincingly in extra time, despite throwing away a 2 goal lead against an impressive BB Eagles side. The semi-final was without doubt our strongest performance in this cup run, Old Stationers provided a very tough test and they were a strong, physical side with a good strike force. We showed great resolve to come back from a goal down and we ran out convincing winners with a score line of 4-1.

That said, we are under no illusions that nothing more than 110% will suffice today against a good and well organised football side. Whilst we have demolished the likes of Winchmore Hill & West Wickham in previous seasons, we have never beaten Nottsborough in all the seasons I have been playing, although we have had some close fought draws. Given the quality of the Winchmore Hill side we played recently, it is hard to see why Nottsborough are not storming this league again, but form goes out of the window in the final.

Final Fever



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JUNIOR
CHALLENGE CUP

Saturday 20 April, 3pm
at Old Parkonians, Fairlop

Broomfield 6th



East Barnet Old
Grammarians 7th

From Broomfield's John Crimmins

Broomfield 6th XI have benefitted this season by having a reasonably stable side and thereby developing a good team spirit. A good run in both the AFA and SAL cups, together with the dreadful weather conditions have meant that at the beginning of April they still had ten games left to play.

They started the season by winning their first three league matches quite convincingly, but were stopped in their tracks when they came up against Broomfield 7th XI and suffered a painful defeat. Revenge was taken when they won the return fixture later in the season. Their league form has not been consistent enough to challenge for honours, but they have saved their best performances for the cup competitions.

They progressed to the fourth round of the AFA Senior Novets Cup where they lost 3-1 to UCL Academicals. In the SAL Junior Novets Cup they had the good fortune to be drawn at home in every round. The first round saw the Bank of England 4th XI having to travel to North London to be beaten by a score of 5-2. This was followed by Alleyn Old Boys 6th XI in the second round where Broomfield were again convincing winners by 6 goals to 1. Old Westminster Citizens 6th XI were their third South London club to have to make the long journey, only to suffer defeat by a score of 6-2.

This brought about a semi-final confrontation against Broomfield 7th XI. After the two keenly contested league matches, there was a lot of interest in this match within the club. It proved to be a hard fought game and the 6th XI came out winners by 3 goals to 1. They are now eagerly looking forward to playing East Barnet Old Grammarians 7th XI in the final on the 20th of April.



From EBOG's Nick Finney

We entered the competition in the 2nd round in mid-December with a home game against Alexandra Park 8's. Playing at a boggy Bethune Park, my main memory of this game was the fact that the EBOG team who'd used the pitch the previous week had taken the changing room key with them, leaving us to stand around in the cold waiting for it to show up so we could get changed. We also managed to show up with only one goal net, SAL football at its best. The game itself was a tight affair for long periods. We'd taken the lead through John Beck midway through the first half but were soon pegged back. In the second half it was the Rob Hodgson show as he scored a hat trick. In all honesty the score line flattered us a bit and AP made a good game of it for over an hour. The 2nd goal saw their heads drop then it was a fairly easy ride for the last 20-25 mins.

Our 8th XI beat Old Parkonians 5-1 in round two which set up a mouth-watering 'El Classico' (though this is commonly referred to using less complementary terms within the club) on February 2nd.

We'd played out a humdinger of a game in early December with the 8's unlucky not to take at least a point in a game that ended 7-6 to the 7th XI. This time around it was a far more straight forward affair with the 7's running out comfortable 6-0 winners. I was on a stag weekend so was unable to play, which probably accounts for the clean sheet the boys kept in my absence. It also accounts for the fact that I have no idea who scored, given that no bugger other than me ever writes the match reports....

And so we made it to a massive semi!. Merton had come in to the game having thumped Alexandra Park 7's 7-2 so we were a bit apprehensive as to what to expect given we don't often get to face our colleagues from 'Sarf of the river'. On the day the team played excellently and were never really in danger of losing. Rob Hodgson scored early on and despite a quick reply from Merton, we made it to half time 3-1 up with another from Rob and one from John Beck. The second half didn't see too much in the way of goalmouth action until the 75th minute when Rob grabbed another hat trick and it was then effectively game over. Nick Beck put the icing on the cake with a 5th in the last minute and the 7's were in to their first final since 1997 if I'm not mistaken.

Rep Team

SAL 1 Arthurian League 0

Wednesday 28 March

West Wickham's Scott Simmonds scored the only goal on a freezing night at Corinthian-Casuals as the SAL won their first match since the Stuart Hyde Trophy back in September.

A number of new faces featured in the team and played the usual SAL passing game on an excellent surface at Tolworth although the goal wasn't quite a classic, cannoning in off Simmonds after an attempting clearance.

However, a season without a full representative match it was good to open with a win before the Steve Langley Cup match the following week.

SQUAD:

Russell Hodges (Old Salesians), Adam Freeman (West Wickham), Alex Karamath (Old Wilsonians), Davy Anderson (Weirside Rangers), Kieran McSweeney (BB Eagles), Ross Simmonds (West Wickham - captain), Neil Parkinson (Old Salesians), Alex Ewin and James Taylor (both Nottsborough), Ben Cook (Merton), Sayumg Pibulsonggram (Merton), Daniel Meere (Ibis), Nick Haynes (Old Salesians), John Lynch (Merton), Sean McCullough (Merton), Mick Hughes (Merton), Tristan Pople (Ibis).



THE SAL TEAM WHICH RETAINED THE STEVE LANGLEY CUP

SAL 3, AFC 0

Wednesday 4 April

The League retained the Steve Langley Cup on a cold night at Potters Bar after making the most of their chances in a game the AFC had the best off.

As with the previous week's fixture manager Bob Leeds introduced a host of new faces with important league matches taking place the night before. The opening exchanges favoured the AFC and it wasn't until 35 minutes in when the SAL managed their first attempt at goal.

The AFC had fashioned several chances and had been denied by the woodwork and EBOG's 'keeper Harry Ricketts who pulled off several fine saves on the night before a clearance fell to Winchmore Hill's Andy Barrell on the centre circle, just inside the AFC half.

Taking a quick look at the goalkeeper's position Barrell lobbed the ball 40 yards into the top right hand corner of the AFC net to give the reds the lead.

Continuing in the same vein in the second half the AFC continued to press with Ricketts maintaining the lead after an hour with a one-on-one save before Crouch End Vampires' George Mabey crossed from near the corner flag only to see the ball drop in at the back post for 2-0.

The second goal knocked the spirit out of the AFC and a few minutes later BB Eagles' Cameron Busby was felled rounding the 'keeper and Old Garchonian Tom Lytton stepped up to slot home the third.

The win is the SAL's fifth in the Steve Langley Cup and seventh against the AFC. After the game ex-SAL and AFA goalkeeper Dan Ashley (below, with John Miller) was presented with a commemorative tankard for his ten years' service to both.



SQUAD (all played):

Harry Ricketts (EBOG), Dan Bromelow (BB Eagles), Andrew Diston (Old Finchleians), Mark McVey (Alexandra Park), Kieran McSweeney (BB Eagles - captain), Jamie Diston (Old Finchleians), Andy Brown (Alexandra Park), Adam Blair (Old Garchonians), Andy Barrell (Winchmore Hill), Tom Lytton and Sam Joiner (both Old Garchonians), Daniel Dawson, George Mabey and Joe Ephgrave (all Crouch End Vampires), Tristan Pople (Ibis), Cam Busby (BB Eagles), Darshan Depala (Old Finchleians).



A.F.A. Update



www.amateur-fa.com

Rep Teams

Sussex's 3-0 win against London helped them leapfrog the AFA who finish 3rd in this season's Southern Counties Championship.

However, the biggest game of the season is yet to come. The AFA Under 18s play Kent on Sunday 28 April at Corinthian F.C., kicking off at 1pm. A second win for the AFA over Kent this year will give them the championship.

SENIORS	Pld	Dif	Pts
Army	4	10	10
Sussex	3	7	9
AFA	5	2	7
Royal Navy	5	-4	5
London	5	-10	4
Middlesex	4	-5	1

UNDER 18s	Pld	Dif	Pts
Kent	4	15	12
AFA	4	8	12
Middlesex	5	0	9
London	4	-6	3
Sussex	3	-7	0
Royal Navy	4	-10	0

UNDER 16s	Pld	Dif	Pts
Kent	3	10	9
Middlesex	3	1	6
London	3	0	3
AFA	3	-5	3
Sussex	2	-6	0



AFA Under 18s

Seniors 2012-13

03-Oct **1-1** v Oxford University
7.30pm at Uxbridge F.C.
10-Oct **1-0** v Cambridge University
7.30pm at Potters Bar Town F.C.
07-Nov **1-2** v Sussex FA
7.30pm at Lancing F.C.
14-Nov **2-2** v Royal Navy FA
7.30pm at Corinthian-Casuals F.C.
06-Feb **1-4** Royal Air Force FA
7.30pm at Dulwich Hamlet F.C.
20-Feb **1-3** Army FA
7.30pm at Army Military Stadium, Aldershot
27-Feb **2-1** Middlesex FA
7.30pm at Hanwell Town F.C.
13-Mar **4-0** London FA
7.30pm, Dulwich Hamlet FC

Under 18s 2012-13

28-Oct **1-0** v Sussex FA
1.00pm at Colney Heath F.C.
03-Nov **1-0** v Kent FA
2.00pm at Tonbridge AFC (FACYC R1)
09-Dec **2-1** v Royal Navy FA
1.00pm at Colney Heath F.C.
15-Dec **0-5** Norfolk FA
2.00pm at FDC Norwich (FACYC R1)
17-Feb **2-1** Middlesex FA
1.00pm, Uxbridge FC
10-Mar **5-0** London FA
1.00pm at A.F.C. Hornchurch
28-Apr v Kent FA
1.00pm at Corinthian F.C.

Under 16s 2012-13

30-Sep **1-2** v Kent FA
1.00pm at Enfield Town F.C.
18-Nov **1-9** v Middlesex FA
1.00pm at Colney Heath F.C.
02-Dec **4-0** v London FA
1.00pm at A.F.C. Hornchurch
05-May v Sussex FA
1.00pm at Colney Heath F.C.

Courses

The AFA offers a wide range of courses including coaching, medical, emergency aid and safeguarding children. Courses are nationally accredited and on successful completion candidates will receive either a 1st4sport or FA certificate.

Click the links below to visit the various course pages on the AFA website.

Courses

- ▶ [Level 1 Award In Coaching Football](#)
- ▶ [Level 2 Certificate In Coaching Football](#)
- ▶ [Futsal Courses](#)
- ▶ [Coaching Disabled Footballers](#)
- ▶ [Welfare Officer Workshops](#)
- ▶ [Safeguarding Children Workshop](#)
- ▶ [Emergency Aid](#)
- ▶ [Basic First Aid For Sport](#)
- ▶ [FA Age Appropriate Introductory Module](#)
- ▶ [FA Youth Award Module 1](#)
- ▶ [FA Youth Award Module 2](#)

Documents

- ▶ [AFA Coaching Policies and Procedures](#)
- ▶ [Coaching Pathway](#)



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T E L E C O M



Introduction

Glemnet Telecom provides comprehensive Voice and Data communications solutions for business. The supply, installation and maintenance of IP based Business telephone systems, Local Area Networks, Hosted IP Voice and Cloud based services. Cost reductions through access to Wholesale Fixed line, SIP Trunks, Mobile and High speed Internet services enabling companies and organisations to achieve real savings and productivity benefits.



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