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Holmer Green suffer agonising final defeat

The Greens lose in Wycombe Senior Cup



Aston Clinton emerged triumphant against Holmer Green

By Nicholas Tunney

HOLMER Green suffered a narrow defeat in the Wycombe Senior Cup final, losing 1-0 to Bucks rivals Aston Clinton.

Aston Clinton retained the trophy they won 12 months ago on Tuesday night at the Alfred Davis Memorial Ground, home of Marlow FC.

Holmer started the better but as the first half wore on Clinton found their feet and got the crucial goal which they had to defend for

long periods of the second half. They had chances on the counter after the break to seal the game which were spurned but they held on to complete another successful season for the Spartan South Midlands Division Two side.

The team in green had the ball in the back of the net within 90 seconds of kick off when a corner was cleared as far as Curtis Stone who looped it back into Dan Wilson where from 10 yards he headed home but quite clearly from an off-side position.

On 29 minutes came the winner, corner taker Collins curled in from the right which eluded those at the front post and as Sam Austin approached to attack the keeper stuck his arm up to try and push over however the ball nestled inside the top corner.

An early second half move by Holmer broke down deep in the Aston half allowing Elias Williams to bring the ball away and a perfectly weighted pass with the outside of the boot sent Ash Clark through the heart of the defence where from the

edge of the penalty arc he blazed over the bar.

Some great defending by Aston saw a lob over the top for Pawel Kotwica to chase down but Austin positioned himself between the front man and the ball to shield out of play.

Five minutes into added time with Clinton wasting time in the corner, Holmer skipper Gary Lines slid in to bring down Chris Stapleton to earn his second yellow and subsequent red card with the final whistle sounding just moments later much to the relief of Clinton.

Ainsworth rolls back the years

Local football

WYCOMBE Wanderers manager Gareth Ainsworth celebrated his 46th birthday with a goal and a winner's medal as Finchampstead defeated Fernhill 3-1 in the Bracknell Town and District Sunday League Cup final.

The Chairboys boss showed he had not lost much of his class, spraying long, accurate passes in addition to making swift bursts to set up attacks.

But he was pipped for the man-of-the-match award by Leon Mannion, who has played for Wycombe reserves.

Mannion was also on target and was a threat to the Fernhill defence for the whole game with his pace.

It looked promising for Fernhill when they took the lead in the 12th minute through defender Tom Baddeley following Charlie Evanston's long left-wing cross.

However, the cup holders were left reeling by a quick one-two. Mannion helped set up a 38th-minute equaliser for Brian Murphy and then scored himself two minutes later with a powerful drive after cutting in from the right wing.

However, the one piece of high-level skill was provided by Ainsworth, who from just outside the area scored direct from a free-kick. Fernhill's wall and keeper Ashley East appeared to have the left side of their goal covered while leaving the right exposed, but the Wanderers gaffer still managed to find a way through to score.

The industrious Evanston was the best player for Fernhill, who were reduced to 10 men in injury time when Josh Lawrence was sent off.

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