**HILLY FIELDS FOOTBALL CLUB**

**SEASON 16: 1982-83**

**SUNDAY:**

**ORPINGTON & BROMLEY:**

**P W D L F A Pts Pos**

**Division 1 4th**

**Charity Cup**

**Halliday Cup**

**Apps Gls**

**Steve Banks**

**Steve Brine 8**

**Doug Bryant**

**Ian Chapman**

**Gary Crane 7**

**Steve Jordan**

**Dave Morgan**

**Peter Noble**

**Steve Reeves**

**Tony Reeves 1**

**Mark Smith 24**

**Alan Speaight 7**

**Robert Williams 7**

 **The Sunday side battled hard in a well matched division to finish 4th and snatch the last remaining promotion place in spite of the handicap of an ever present 'Sniffer Speaight'. The season began well with three wins out of four over sides that were to finish 2nd, 3rd & 5th, losing to the eventual champions through a last minute winner.**

 **After an extra time cup win in the preliminary round of the Charity Cup the team crashed 3-5 in the league where our goalkeeper, Steve Reeves, earned his nickname “Teflon”.**

 **An ungraceful exit from the Charity Cup followed in which a frank discussion of personal characteristics between the referee and Gary Crane led to the latter being sent off. However, the defeat was blamed mainly on the absence of our midfield dynamo, Steve Brine who was A.W.O.L on holiday, Steve is said to be the engine room of the team because he is always well oiled!**

 **The team somehow switched into top gear, winning the next 6 league games. This was credited mainly to Ian Chapman keeping out of the way of the midfield and managing twice to kick the ball without falling over at the same time.**

 **This period also saw the rise to stardom of midfielder, Robert Williams, who won the coveted 'Golden Comb' award for his services to hairdressing after finally heading the ball and getting his hair dirty.**

 **Sandwiched between these games was an early exit from the Halliday Cup. It has often been suggested that the loss of Captain “Lost the toss again boys” Morgan at half time was a vital factor in the heavy defeat, but no one listens to his wife anyway! For the uninitiated, Dave takes all our long throw ins, most of which result in a long throw to the opposition on the other side of the pitch!**

 **Two successive defeats followed, and at 1-2 down with 15 minutes to go promotion seemed a long way off, but a solo effort by midfielder Dave Noble (Not the bald headed one at Blackpool) inspired the team to victory. A resounding 7-2 win followed at Wellcome laboratories where Doug Bryant was kindly donated by the club!**

 **Unfortunately, midfielder Doug never really forgot that he was a goalkeeper and was often seen to strike a goal bound shot from the edge of the area, only to find himself pulling off a fine save!**

 **This game also saw centre back Tony Reeves, rise majestically (Well, I am writing this rubbish!) to head his only goal of the season, much to everyone's disappointment. The whole team claimed that Alan Speaight was offside, but the referee said he wasn't interfering with play, and is never likely to!**

 **The highlight of the season was the hard fought (Literally) victory over the league champions, a fine individual goal by top scorer Mark Smith, who saves most of his shooting for the pool table, set the team on their way. But it took an excellent save from Steve Reeves (His first of the season) and some Italian style tackling from Tony Reeves, which was so far over the top he twice cleared Bechers Brook! Before Steve Jordan scored the second with ten minutes remaining. Steve played most of the season with a leg injury, which appeared to be that his right leg didn't know what his left leg was doing!**

 **The remaining four games saw the team lose three times to dispel thoughts of the championship, but a good team spirit (Between games) enabled everyone to enjoy a good season.**

 **The achievement of the season undoubtedly the own goal scored by Steve Banks with chilling efficiency within forty seconds of the start of one game, it was made even more remarkable by the fact that we kicked off!**

 **The players wish to thank Hughie Hamilton for his inspired management of the team throughout the season, and for running the line.**

 **In appreciation, a collection was made and a copy of the book “Rule 11-offside”, will be presented shortly.**

 **Special thanks too, to his wife Lesley for all her vocal support, most of which is unprintable, and her hard work in washand ensuring Alan plays each week.**

 **Tony Reeves (Secretary)**