

## Huntington Rovers Reserve Team Match Reports for 2008-2009

### Rovers V Bishopthorpe

Ben Marshall, G. Hirst, A. Bell, N. Cadywold, P. Dyson, G. Macdonald, P. Noon, S. Kendall, J McGuigan, E. Kidd, A. Rose Sub M. Gamble.

Once again changes had to be made from the week before due to the shortage of players available. Three players making season debuts, the return to the fold of Jordan and Gambles and the introduction of Aaron Rose. For the second week running we played a strong reserve side due to the introduction of some first team players.

Conditions were similar to the previous week with a strong wind blowing down the pitch. The surface was hard and uneven and with one of the posts at the river end being nearly 9' high, I consulted the referee on its legality, only to be told it's the same for both sides at this point I knew we would get nothing from the ref. We started the match with a few players carrying injuries at least 5 saying they would not last the game. Having won the toss we started with the wind behind us as in the previous week. This week we started with some long range shots with most flying well over the post, Macca went close after about 15 mins when he forced Bish's goalkeeper to tip a shot round the post, from the resulting corner Neil Cadywold volleyed a shot just wide of the goal and then

Macca latched onto a poor goal kick from the keeper only again to see it going wide. The wind was controlling the pattern of the game with Huntington playing most of the football and Bish relying on pumping the ball up field for their big centre forward to chase (Denzel). In the 25 minute this ploy worked when the ball took a wicked bounce looping over the defender for the Bish striker to pounce on, lobbing the ball over the advancing Ben Marshall. Even though we went behind we were still playing the better football with Aaron causing Bish's defense problems, with further chances falling to Jordan, Errol, Noon and Macca.

We started the second half in a similar fashion to the first playing some attractive football, Steve Kendall having a chance cleared off the line after Jordan's cross resulted in a corner taken by Pat Noon. Bish with the wind behind them were peppering our penalty box with long throws, Gaz Hirst clearing off the line on 60, Ben and the defense keeping Bish at bay with Ali Bell and Neil Cadywold getting in some goal saving tackles and headers. On 65 mins. we should have been awarded a penalty for a hand ball which looked blatant, only for the referee to turn down our appeal with our captain making his feelings known. Bish could and should have gone further ahead, when from a free kick, which was met by their centre half (codger) was headed over the bar unchallenged, moments later the same player going close again, but this time one of our defenders getting a deflecting header. With 20 mins to go Gambles came on for Huntington, Mark has been in the football wilderness for a few seasons, he replaced the injured Errol who took a nasty tackle, but the referee once again played on, we seemed to be getting nothing from the ref., nothing unusual !!!!. Soon after coming on Gambles was nearly played in, with a good cross from Gaz, just out of reach for a Gambles header. With 15 mins to go most of my time was taken up with Paul Dyson, who took the ball full in the face with blood pouring like a tap from his nostril, never once asking if it had spoiled his looks. With no more substitutes we were forced to play the last 15 with 10 men as the referee would not let Dys back on until we could stem the flow of blood. Even with 10 men we were still playing the better football, Bish still relying on long throw ins and long range shots. The game petering out to a 1 - 0 defeat. Our players coming off a little dejected, after playing so hard for no reward. Report by Peter Cadywold.

### Rovers V Thorpe

Ben Marshall, G. Hirst, A. Bell, N. Cadywold, P. Dyson, W. Scaife, P. Noon, S. Kendall, A. Noon, E. Kidd, G. Macdonald - Subs N. Fenton, C. Johnson (Fishy), Sam Marshall.

A few changes from previous week with Ben Marshall returning with the keepers gloves and due to the game following on from the firsts. Wayne Scaife made his debut for the reserves with further first team players making up the bench.

The game was dominated by a strong wind which we had behind us for the first half but we made little use of. Thorpe came with a strong side due to their first team game less and had control of the game for the first 15 mins. our goal coming under pressure with Ben and our defense having to work hard to keep Thorpe out. Our first shot on goal coming from Macca after 30mins. followed quickly by our first corner coming from a long range shot from Dyson. Very little happening over the remainder of the first

half until the last minute when Gaz Hirst made a clearing save, resulting in a corner for Thorpe, who took it quickly with our players seeming to fall asleep, Thorpe going close.

The second half started with shot from the kick off with Thorpe taking advantage of the strong wind but Ben was wide awake and gathered comfortably. Over the next 5 mins. the game was end to end, with Steve Kendall going close and Ben having to tip over the bar from long range shots which Thorpe were now sending in.

On the 50 min. Huntington opened the scoring with a sweet left foot strike by Debutant Wayne Scaife, having been put through by Errol. Huntington were now starting to take control of the middle of the park with Macca putting through Errol this time, only for his shot to be deflected for a corner. Over the next 30mins or so Huntington's defense came under great pressure with numerous corners, most of them being met by Neil Cadywold who was solid in defense and some good saves being made by Ben Marshall. The referee also contributed towards the pressure as he seemed to be giving a lot of the 50/50 decisions in Thorpe's favour. Things had to give and on the 78 min. the defense of Huntington's goal was broken, when a clearing header from Steve Kendall, from one of the many corners was picked up on the edge of our penalty area and found its way into the net. With about 10 mins. to go changes were made bringing on fresh legs (although they had played earlier) with Fenno and Fishy taking the field, which helped keeping the pressure at bay which Thorpe were now applying. Thorpe were desperate for the points to avoid relegation, but further clearing headers from Dyson and Cadywold saw the game out to a hard earned 1 - 1 draw, a tremendous all-round team performance.

### **Rovers V Kartiers**

Lineup: T Hewer, N Cadywold, J Colley, P Dyson, G Banks, P Noon, I Proctor, A Noon, Macca, E Kidd, C Dower. Sub – A Triffitt, T Hair, K Martin.

The club dug deep for players this week as the 1st team were left short and the knock on effect is 3 of my players stepped up for them. Tom Hewer carrying an injury was able to start in goal and Proc returned after a 3 week absence to play his last game for the club before leaving for Oz this week for a year and the experienced John Colley stepped into the defence having not started a game this year. The 1st 20 minutes was non eventful as both sides failed to create anything until Macca let loose with a 25 yard effort just past the post. A few minutes later Dower knocked a through ball to Errol but he could not reach the ball as the keeper slid out to close him down. Dower had his own chance next as the ball was chipped into the box, it hit him on the back of the head and fell to his right, he turned and miss hit the shot and again the keeper saved the effort. Moments later at the other end Tom saved a shot from the edge of the box, he could only parry it but the ball was hacked clear. Coming up to half time Kartiers had another chance but the ball flew past the post. We went down the other end with a good move involving, Pat, Banksy, Errol with the ball ended up on Dower's head but the keeper saved again. Macca then skipped past 3 players into the box, crossed but no-one could get on the end of it. Dyson then had the final chance of the half but shot wickedly wide.

I replaced Hewer with Tom Hair at half time in goal and we started well with Errol chipping the keeper from the edge of the box but the ball fell wide of the far post. We were putting pressure on Kartiers and proc fed Pat, he crossed and Errol shot straight at the keeper. A corner swung in from Pat was met by Caddy at the back post, it again went wide, it was followed by another corner which fell to Banksy but he shot just over. Triff and Kev replaced Dower and Errol and they were quickly involved, Dyson rolled the ball to Macca, he crossed and Triff headed goal wards, the ball was acrobatically cleared off the line. A quick free kick to Kev on the edge of the box, he turned and shot, the ball again missing the post. With only 15 minutes to go Kartiers did what has happened all season they broke down the left, crossed, free header 1-0. Macca then crossed for Triff who hit the bar with his header. Banksy made a run, pulled the ball back from the goal line and Pat shot well over. Kartiers went down the other end and Tom made had to dive full length to tip the ball round the post. Moments later just like the 1st goal, Kartiers crossed the ball another free header 2-0 down. Within a minute Tom cleared the ball it looped over the top of Kartiers defence and Caddy swept the ball into the back of the net 2-1. We were now playing 3 at the back in an attempt to snatch a just equaliser but this gave Kartiers more room up front, they swung the ball in from the right, Tom tried to clear it but ended up sitting on the ball, it squirmed out and the forward simply tapped the ball into the back of the net 3-1. Our 1st defeat in 4 games, but again I'm left thinking how the hell of we lost that!!

### **Copmanthorpe V Rovers**

N Cadywold, N Fenton, P Dyson, S Kendall, G Hirst, A Bell, P Noon, G Banks, A Noon, Fishy, Macca. Sub. E Kidd.

It was looking promising the day before the game with 15 players available, but in the world of reserve football I knew it was too good to be true. By the time Saturday came I was down to 12 with Nick Fenno being loaned to me from the 1st team. The club has 4 keepers but with only 1 available and playing for the 1st team, centre back Neil Cadywold was drafted in goal. Kendo was asked to play out of position at centre back and Banksy stepped into a central midfield role. We started the game well with Gaz and Andy creating chances down the left. 20 minutes in and a Pat Noon corner was met by Ali Bell who powered the ball into the net. 1 up and well deserved. There were chances for both sides with Cady claiming some good crosses and managing to save a couple of 1 on 1's with Cops forwards. The only trouble we had was of our own making as we failed on numerous occasions to clear the ball.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> half started well with Ali laying the ball back to Fenno, he played the ball down the line, Fishy collected it and laid it off to Macca who shot inches wide. Once again Ali was involved, running the ball out of defence passing to Macca on the right who crossed only for the ball again to just miss the post. Next came a long ball from the Cop defence, it fell into our box over the shoulder of one of their forwards, he volleyed it on his right foot and was heading in along the ground but Cady got down low and saved it. Dys collected the loose ball and knocked it clear from danger. Minutes later Macca collected the ball in midfield and ran towards goal, he shot from 25 yards and this time found the net for the 4<sup>th</sup> game in a row. Errol came on with 25 minutes to go making his 2<sup>nd</sup> appearance of the season following his move from Ireland, and quickly played Macca in. The ball was squared to Pat who managed to hit the ball about 25 yards over the bar. Gaz Hirst was the next to have half a chance as he headed just over from Pat's corner with Fishy just behind him in a better position. Macca had another chance but his effort was well saved following a good move involving several players. Cop did manage to pull 1 back late on with a shot that seemed easier to save than some of their earlier efforts but Cady had done enough in goal to help ensure 2 wins on the bounce. 5 keepers at the club now!

### **Rovers V Heworth**

T Hair, N Cadywold, N Fenton, P Dyson, G Hirst, Steve Kendall, P Noon, G Banks, Fishy, E Kidd, Macca. Sub A Noon, C Dower.

A couple of changes from last week with Tom Hair taking over in goal leaving Cady to fill in a more familiar centre back role, Ali Bell went to sub for the 1st team and Chris Dower joined us on the bench following a long absence due to work commitments. I choose to start Errol who made a good substitute appearance the week before. The 1st 15 minutes were fairly frantic with the ball flying round midfield with neither side managing to create anything, then a deflected pass from Kendo fell to the feet of Errol who turned and placed the ball into the top corner from 25 yards. The decision to play him from the start was greeted well by the team manager! 10 minutes later Macca skipped past 3 players and shot with the keeper getting down well to save. Fishy working hard on the left pulled the ball back for Pat who shot just over, this was quickly followed by a free kick which Macca failed to curl enough as the ball went past the post. A minute later Heworth's keeper cleared the ball, it fell to Pat 40 yards out who knocked the ball towards goal but the keeper managed to get back on his line and parry the ball before picking it up a yard from the goal line. With minutes to go before half time Heworth had a throw-in near the own penalty area, as it went towards the centre back it bounced up and struck his hand with the referee quick to point to the spot. Macca stepped aside and Fishy (the reserves top scorer) confidently stepped up and placed the ball in the bottom right hand corner (2-0).

The 2nd half started well with a quick Kendo throw fell to Macca, he laid the ball back to Fenno who knocked it down the line where Errol won the header and flicked it into the path of Fishy who then shot just over. Heworth responded well with an effort down their right which flew wide of the post. A minute later down their left the ball was crossed into the box, one of the Heworth players dived towards the near post, the ball hit him and looped over Tom and into the back of the net (2-1). The 2 subs had now joined the play with Andy slotting in at leftback and Chris Dower becoming the target man upfront. With only 15 minutes to go the ball fell to Chris, he brought it down turned in the box and crossed to the far post, Fishy managed to get a toe to it and knocked it back to the edge of the box and Pat shaved the crossbar with another good effort. Fishy had another good chance which was deflected wide and from the corner Cady's header crossed the line but was judged as having climbed over the back of the defender and thus disallowed. The game seemed to peter out over the last few minutes ending with a 3rd win on the trot (the best run of the season).

### **Rovers V Kartiers**

Tom Hair, Glen Banks, Sam Marshall, Paul Dyson, Pete Laidlaw, Fishy, Pat Noon, Ian Proctor, Macca, Chris Johnson, Iain Dunn. Subs – Ali Bell, Ben Marshall.

With the snow arriving during the week I was praying for our game to be called off as player numbers were dwindling, even up to Thursday as Kendo injured his foot at work. It was looking like I would have a bare 11. A couple of phone calls at the back end of the week with the club secretary wasn't great news as the game looked likely to go ahead, my saviour was in fact the 1st team's game been called off and I was able to call up Sam (a reserve regular earlier in the season) and 1st teamer's Chris Johnson and Pete Laidlaw. Another player entering the reserve world was Iain Dunn, former pro. No changing rooms on offer at Selby was the 1st hurdle, we got changed at Huntington and travelled kitted up, we met on the roadside in Selby and trudged across to the pitch, which wasn't in that bad a condition considering the weather during the week. We started strongly with Dunny, Macca and Johnno having good chances but didn't convert. It was difficult for players to keep their feet in midfield as the pitch cut up. Kartiers played a long ball over the top and Tom Hair another player making his 1st appearance of the season called for the ball only to fumble, but he was able to react and dive on the loose ball. It took 30 mins before the deadlock was broken, Johnno collected the ball, turned, used his pace to go past the defender on the right of the box, he crossed along the ground. The defender missed the ball which fell to Macca who side footed the ball into the net. The game continued to ebb and flow with both sides creating chances but it remained 1-0 at half time.

The 2nd half started well with Rovers again seemingly having the upper hand. A bit of controversy livened up the game as the referee gave a throwing as the linesman at the time (Neil Cadywold) had dozed off and not seen who kicked the ball out. As the defenders argued, Pat Noon took advantage, crossed the ball to Dunny who stepped over it with a dummy which fell to Macca coming in from the left to again knock into the net for ours and Macca's 2nd of the game. There were some definite threats made towards the linesman which were returned with a few expletives and offers of meeting up after for a chat! The tackles were a little more full on for the next 10 minutes which made for interesting viewing from the safety of the touchline. Kartiers made a few substitutions and were able to get hold of the ball in midfield more. They created a chance which Tom was unable to stop although he managed to get a hand to it, 2-1. Tom then managed to talk himself into the book as he continued to question the referee about an incident during the build up to the goal. His booking came a good 5 minutes after. Macca was taken off to receive appreciation from the crowds only to offer his opinions on my substitution techniques (as expected), he was replaced by Ali Bell. Proc was taken off with 10 mins to go with fatigue (he had done a bit of running during the game as always and cramp was setting in). Ben Marshall (keeper) was given a roving role up front and put himself about as requested. There was still time for 1 more goal. Pete Laidlaw pushing up from full back collected the ball danced round (skidded actually) past 4 defenders, then the advancing keep and had time to switch to his right foot to blast the ball into an empty net. 3-1, good performance from all 13 players and a much needed 3 points at this time of the season.

### **Rovers V St Johns**

B Marshall, G Banks, N Cadywold, P Dyson, G Hirst, A Bell, P Noon, S Kendall, A Noon, Fishy, Macca. Sub – Craig Johnston, John Colley (almost)

Another cold day on a boggy pitch with only an hour to go before KO and down to 10 men against last years league winners and all was looking rosy! A quick call to the 1st team to ask for a player back brought us up to 11 and another call to a recent new signing gave us a substitute. The 1st 10 minutes were frantic and we created 3 good scoring chances but were unable to convert them. As has been the situation all season, St Johns went down the other end and won a soft penalty and they went 1 up. Soon after they swung a corner in from the right and unmarked the forward headed home to make it 2-0.

Some harsh words at half time seemed to pickup the players who were on top in the game even if the score line said different. Again we had chances to score but as our skipper was receiving treatment on the touchline St Johns went through the middle of the park and scored again. 43 year old Craig Johnston replaced the ill Andy Noon with 30 minutes remaining and soon set-up Macca for a 20 yarder into the bottom corner. Yet another soft goal was conceded moments later as our keeper cleared the ball into the path of the St Johns forward who side footed the ball into the empty net. 4-1 down and the players started to step things up even with the skipper limping around in the back 4. We did have a 2nd substitute but the ref. would not allow him on as he wasn't named at the start of the match! So with barely 11 players on the pitch the comeback began as Craig was bundled over in the box and confident Fishy grabbed the ball (with Macca looking on) and coolly slotted home 4-2. With a bit of hope we continued to press and were rewarded as Macca swung in the ball from the left which was met by Fishy's head and flew past the keeper 4-3. With time running out we looked good for a draw only for the ref. to blow up for full time. A quick check of the watch clearly showed at least 3 minutes of normal time remained but the referee just brushed our claims aside. I was hacked off with our general performance (and the players were told so afterwards in the changing room) but was even more disappointed with the

ref who had a poor game and his attitude at the end was not what is expected of an official. A report has been written and passed to the York FA (something I'm not keen on doing but felt strong enough on this occasion to vent my opinion and the facts).

### **Rovers V Dringhouses**

B Marshall, G Banks, N Cadywold, P Dyson, G Hirst, S Kendall, I Proctor, P Noon, Macca, Fishy, Bully.  
Sub. J Colley

A phone call on Thursday night from the 1st team manager left me 3 players short as he was struggling for players with injuries and absentees in his squad. We started well with a couple of early chances which we failed to convert. Dringhouses also had a couple of shots but from long range that didn't trouble us. A quick break on 12 minutes had Kendo collecting a long ball over their defence, he ran 30 yards into the box only for his shot to be saved, the rebound fell to Fishy whose shot was also saved. Immediately the ball was cleared, went down the other end leading to the 1st goal of the game. The ball landed in the area with a mix up leading to an OG from Dys as the ball was side footed into the net. Heads went down as we seemed to pick up the pace and quickly had a chance with Bully shooting wide. On the 17th minute Pat played a long ball wide, Bully swung in a cross and Fishy finished well to equalise. Moments later a Pat free kick had Bully climbing at the back post only to see his header hit the cross bar. It was turning into a decent game with both sides going close. Just before the break no one picked up the runner from midfield and a Dringy player struck the ball from 25 yards out, Ben made a good stop only for the ball to fall on the head of the advancing forward to nod in from 2 yards.

We were still in the game, probably shading possession and efforts on goal, at half time we changed a couple of players positions to get at the opposition and it worked as we pressed immediately. Pat collected the ball in midfield, dribbled towards goal and laid the ball to Macca 30 yards out who with a drop of the shoulder found some space and sent the ball into the top right hand corner of the net, back level again and looking good. With 10 minutes to go Fishy asked to come off and was replaced by John Colley, moments later Proc got injured, tripping over a blade of grass and with no more substitutes we played the last 10 minutes with 10 men. The space on the field left Dringy with the chance to cross the ball from the right in the 85th minute, the ball fell to their forward 6 yards out. He jumped and headed the ball towards goal with Ben unable to stop it squirming underneath him. Time beat us and another 3 points disappeared from our grasp when it was there for the taking.

### **Copmanthorpe V Huntington Rovers**

T Hewer, N Fenton, N Cadywold, P Dyson, G Hirst, S Kendall, P Noon, I Proctor, G Macdonald, A Bullivant, C Johnson. Subs – A Bell, A Noon, G Banks.

After a very festive break (by the look of some of the lads) 2009 continued where we had left off with players missing, both Ben and Sam Marshall off skiing in Europe. Fenno made himself available after a long stint in the 1st team and slotted straight in at right back playing well throughout the game. Paul Dyson replaced Sam at centre back in an unfamiliar role to him for Huntington but collected the man of the match for his efforts. The game started well on a firm surface, it was physical but both sides played to the conditions with no outrageous tackles until Fishy was unable to slow down from his 'one pace' of fast and clattered into one of Cops defenders. I made my 1st appearance back at the club and quickly managed a header and half volley on my crutches on the touchline whilst maintaining my balance (just). Fishy had a couple of chances and created a couple more but we were unable to convert them. Cop were unable to break through our back 4 leaving themselves long range efforts which were all off target.

0-0 at halftime with encouragement to keep playing the same way. The pitch was becoming harder and difficult for the players to control the ball. Not too long after the restart Fishy managed to score putting us 1 up. Cop's 1st team game had been cancelled and a few of their players had come down to substitute for the reserves. Cop's subs came on and began to take more control of the ball and pegged us back. Bully looked heavy legged (and carrying a slight injury) up front and was taken off, Macca went up front and Ali came onto the left in midfield, 5 minutes later Ali had made it 2-0 with a left footer into the top of the net. Proc (cramping up) was replaced by Banksy and Andy Noon replaced Macca. Cop continued to go forward and a long ball caught us out with Cop's front man beating Cady to the ball, shooting past Tom to make it 2-1. There were only 10 minutes to go and Cop continued to press although we nearly caught them on the break with the pace of Fishy, Ali and Andy, but the chances went begging. The final whistle blew and it was a good 3 pointer to start 2009.

### **Dringhouses V Huntington Rovers**

Lineup:- B Marshall, S Marshall, N Cadywold, G Banks, G Hirst, I Proctor, P Noon, S Kendall, A Bell, C Johnson (Fishy), G McDonald

Subs: - P Dyson

Once again we were missing some key players. We were up for the game and started well. We took the lead early on when we scored from a great corner from Pat Noon. We pushed on but conceded a freak goal when Dringhouses scored from a corner themselves. We regained the lead when Fishy broke one on one and slotted past the keeper against his old club. In the second half Dringhouses equalised when a shot came from the edge of the area, through a bunch of players and under the goalkeeper who saw it late. We still had control in the game and missed plenty of chances which produced some good saves from their keeper. At the same time though Dringhouses also had some great chances and Ben made some amazing saves to keep us in the game. 5 minutes from time, we gave the ball away in midfield. The Dringhouses player was then lucky when a tackle bobbed in his path which he then chipped over our last defender to the striker who struck a nice volley to give Dringhouses a 3-2 victory.

### **Huntington Rovers V Bishopthorpe**

Lineup:- T Hewer, S Marshall, N Cadywold, A Bell, G Hirst, G McDonald, P Noon, S Kendall, A Noon, C Johnson (Fishy), A Bullivant

Subs: - B Marshall, C Dower

As per usual this season we were missing several players that would usually be in the starting lineup. Banksy and Proc were away and Dyson and Fawcett were injured. Due to Force's full leg pot, he was unable to attend the game and passed over his managerial duties to Willie with Ex Reserve manager Dave Hall as his assistant.

We started well and Andy Noon was unlucky to have the keeper save 2 chances in the opening minutes. Bishopthorpe had Ex-Leeds Centre Midfielder, Mark Ford playing some great through balls for their strikers but Neil, Sam and Tom dealt with them well. Macca showed his experience when he was bundled over in the away box, Fishy demanded the penalty and went on to score his 1st goal in about 22 games! We didn't sit back on the lead, we carried on playing some great football, spreading the ball wide and composing ourselves. Andy Noon broke free down the wing and crossed for Fishy to tap in (and very nearly miss), Fishy had bagged his second and had his confidence back. At 2-0, the Bishopthorpe Goalkeeper had to come off through injury. It made us push on again and Andy Noon repeated the previous assist only to let elder brother Pat slide it home from 6 yards. It was 3-0 at halftime and we were cruising. We were playing good football, the type of football we should be playing week in week out really.

Bishopthorpe made their 2 remaining substitutions at halftime and started well. They made it 3-1 when their winger was left unmarked on the left hand side to volley home from 15 Yards. We took it on the chin and picked our game up. Fishy completed his hatrick when he broke through one on one and finished well from a tight angle. We sat back a bit now at 4-1 and let Bish back into the game. We conceded a sloppy free kick which they scored from to make it 4-2. In the dying minutes Sam made a great saving tackle, took the ball then the man and his hand through momentum of the sliding tackle tapped the ball and the referee gave a penalty (which he later apologised for). Hewer stood tall and saved to complete a great 4-2 victory. Lets carry it on at Dringhouses next week!

### **Huntington Rovers V Haxby**

Lineup: - B Marshall, S Marshall, P Fawcett, N Cadywold, G Banks, A Bell, I Procter, P Dyson, G McDonald, C Johnson (Fishy), A Bullivant

Subs: - G Hirst, P Noon, E Kydd

Cadywold resumed his position as Captain after a short spell with the first team and really rallied the team together for what was going to be a tough game against an unbeaten Haxby. We welcomed Pat Noon back from Illness and waved goodbye to Jack Wilson as he stepped back into the first team. The team also welcomed new signing Errol Kydd.

We started well with the strong wind against us. We played some good football but we couldn't seem to create anything in front of goal. Haxby also started well forcing our defence to withstand some good through balls and Ben in goal to make a few early saves. Haxby went 1-0 up when we conceded a sloppy freekick, the referee was whistle happy which spoilt the chance of a good physical game, the ball was lofted into the area and the Haxby Striker peeled off his defender to nod home. Our heads didn't go down and we stayed solid through the half. We still just lacked that little bit extra in front of goal however.

We really came out of the traps for the 2nd half. We were playing the ball around well and spreading the play, with the wind we had some good shots and 10 minutes in we won a penalty after McDonald was brought down. Macca didn't quite get hold of the penalty as he would have liked and the Kepper saved to his left. Our heads didn't go down and we carried on playing well. Pat Noon came on for Paul Dyson and Paul Fawcett had to come off injured (which he has no found is a broken Tibia, we wish him a speedy recovery) for Gareth Hirst. We were starting to create chances and looked like we could walk away with a point or 3. Kydd replaced McDonald and showed some quality stuff down the right hand side. As we pushed on in the last 10 minutes we left the defence exposed and Haxby managed to grab a late goal which was again unlucky as the striker mis-kicked for the goal.

On a day where a draw would have been a fair result, a messy game finished with a messy result. Haxby showed the stuff you need to be top of the league and took their chances, something we couldn't do.

### **Heworth V Huntington Rovers**

Lineup:- B Marshall, S Marshall, P Fawcett, G Hirst, A Bell, I Procter, J Wilson, A Noon, G McDonald, C Johnson (Fishy), A Bullivant.

Subs: - P Dyson, G Banks

Following last week's display a win today was crucial. This was going to be a difficult right from the off as the team had to make a lot of changes. Tom Hewer failed a late fitness test meaning Ben Marshall had to drop down from the First Team to play in goal, Pat Noon was ill with the flu, Neil Cadywold stayed with the first team following a good performance in the previous week and Glenn Banks was late following a quick trip to A&E! A plus point was the fact that Matty Ward had made Jack Wilson available for the Reserves in an attempt to get him match fit following his recent injury.

So with a much changed side and formation both teams started well both in need of win! We had the wind against us in the first half but coped well with 3 men at the back and Ben making some great early tackles and saves. We had some good chances, one a header which Fishy was unable to head goal wards. It was 0-0 at Halftime and we knew we had to start the second half well and really take the game to Heworth. It wasn't quite working for us upfront, the final ball was always lacking so 20 minutes in, the manager shuffled it about a bit and brought Dyson & Banks on to try and give us the extra edge. It worked when Jack Wilson broke through the Heworth defence, latched onto a great through ball and finished well for 1-0 with 20 minutes to play. It wasn't long after our celebrations when Macca found himself a bit of space, calculated the wind speed and chipped the ball from 20 yards into the net to make it 2-0. With 15 minutes left all we had to do was ride the game out. We sat a little too deep which invited Heworth onto us but our defence stood strong with Ben Marshall making more good saves, one was tipped onto the post leaving elder brother Sam Marshall the responsibility of sliding through the huge goalmouth puddle to clear the ball. Heworth managed to pull one back when a dubious decision by their linesman meant they ran the ball out of play, down the wing and despite a strong hand from Ben the ball landed in the net, 2-1. We thought we had made it 3-1 at the end when Jack Wilson broke through again, rounded the keeper and coolly slotted home only to see the indecisive referee calling for Offside.

All in all it was a fair result and a good win for Rovers who will entertain league leaders Haxby this week! Come on Rovers!

### **Huntington Rovers V Old Malton**

Hewer, Hirst, S Marshall, Fawcett, Banks, A Noon, P Noon, I Procter, C Johnson, A Bullivant, G McDonald. Subs, Dower & Bell

Just like at St John's the team turned up in dribs and drabs, some on time, some late. During the warm up and team talk you could tell that we were struggling to get up for the game. The gaffer made Bullivant his stand in Captain following Neil Cadywold's call up to the first team.

Old Malton started well, their two young forwards causing our defence some issues but we managed to hold on with the wind against us. We created some chances but went one down when Hewer parried a long distance shot, leaving an Old Malton Midfielder time to dink it in the back of the net.

1-0 at Halftime and we still had a chance. We intended to come out fighting but we carried on where we left off. Old Malton were running the show and now Tom Hewer in goal had slipped a disc in his back meaning he could no longer kick the ball. I didn't take long for the Old Malton striker (who looked like he sung in Hanson) to latch on to the ball from 20 yards and hammer one to make it 2-0.

If heads weren't down before, they definitely were now! We just couldn't get started, there were glimmers of hope but they were soon followed with weak challenges and bad passes. Old Malton forced us back into our own half and to relieve pressure Fawcett played a back pass to Hewer who hung onto the ball and then tried to take on a player. Unfortunately for Hewer the striker was too quick and it was then 3-0. We went three at the back to try and save a bit of pride and we did start playing a bit more football. It wasn't till we were caught on the break, leaving Gaz Hirst to mark 2 players, when they headed home a fourth!

The game ended 4-0 and its now going to make Heworth away on Saturday a massive fixture.

### **St John's V Huntington Rovers**

Tom Hewer, Sam Marshall, Glen Banks, Neil Cadywold, Gaz Hirst, Pat Noon, Andy Noon, Steve Kendall, Ian Proctor, Andy Bullivant, Graham Macdonald. Subs, Ali Bell, Chris Dower.

The game didnt feel right from from the off. The manager was away discussing tactics and training schedules with Rafa at Anfield and players were turning up late (not their fault). The warm up was rushed and a bit messy and overall it seemed we were deflated, strange since we had still maintained an unbeaten start to the league.

The game started and we were on top for the majority of the first half. It was a sudden rush of blood to a Rover's midfielder which caused a St John's player to practically need a hand out of the trees. Unfortunately Proctor had completley halved him in front of the referee in our penalty box..... 1-0 St John's. Although Tommy was unlucky not to get more on it!

We rode out the 1st Half and were unlucky to go in behind. Injuries to Steve Kendall forced an early substitution and Gaz Hirst who took a heavy knock on the ankle but managed to soldier on didn't help. We didnt start the 2nd half well and they managed to break through our defense and power a shot beyond Tommy.....2-0 and now very unlucky.

Despite some negative comments bordering on arguments between the team, heads didn't go down! We battled on. Sam Marshall lofted a beautiful ball into the area from the halfway line which Andy Bullivant kindly headed home. The striker can't stop scoring at the moment..... 2-1 and we were back in the game.

We pushed on and Glen Banks' run from halfway was halted in the area by a St John's Shirt lifter! I mean Puller!! Macca Slotted home the Penalty to make it a deserved 2-2. This was the fire the game needed! Both teams rallied up and went to war. A couple of ridiculous bookings were handed out by the referee. One was certainly not to Gaz Hirst who was trying to be best friends with the guy, never seen such a suck up. Sam Marshall will be unhappy with himself after losing his discipline and reacting badly to a challenge from a St John's player and picking up his 1st booking of the season.

With only a couple of minutes left in the game St John's broke forward and won a corner. The corner was defended well and St John's gained a throwing. With half the defense staying with their same men for the throw the other half left theirs to pick up space. This left free a St John's player to cross the ball and for them to nod home another win....3-2 down and our first league defeat but Huntington have nothing to be ashamed about. Just unlucky on the day. It home to Old Malton this week a critical must win game for us to stay wth the pack leaders.

### **Heworth V Huntington Rovers**

Ben Marshall, Sam Marshall, Glen Banks, Neil Cadywold, Paul Fawcett, Gaz Hirst, Steve Kendall, Ian Proctor, Paul Dyson, Andy Bullivant, Graham Macdonald. Subs., Ali Bell, Chris Dower.

Ben Marshall returned from injury to take up position in goal for this cup tie, with 40 year old Macca making his 1st start of the season following substitute appearances in the last 4 games. A good warm up this week maybe had us peaking too early! The game started at a quick pace with Heworth's 2 front men causing problems with their movement around the pitch. The conditions were blustery and on the large pitch we needed to get the ball down and play but it took some time for us to get going. Most of the 1st 30 minutes was played in midfield with no real chances at either end, when out of the blue, a clearance from Heworth's left back was launched towards our goal from the half way line and the ball simply bounced straight over the head of our keeper and landed in the back of the net. This stung us into action and 8 minutes later the ball was worked down our left with Gaz lifting the ball into the box. Macca went for the shot but could only manage to divert the ball to Bully who controlled it and coolly side footed into the corner (his 3rd in 3 games). We were pegged back a bit towards the end of the half but still Heworth never had any real chances.

At half time we knew we had to start winning more 2nd balls and start squeezing the play as we had begun to sit back leaving huge gaps between our front line and the back 4. The half began well with an excellent 35 yard strike from Dys which flew inches over the bar. Kendo was working hard down the right and Macca linking up well with Proc and Bully, but we couldn't quite get that 2nd goal. Ali replaced Gaz and immediately had a couple of good runs down the left but again the final ball was just not accurate enough. Kendo had a great chance to score but the keeper managed to twice parry the ball away to safety. The defence stood firm with Banksy, Cady, Sam and me making last ditch tackles and blocks around the box. One such block from Proc's garden jewels led to a throw near the corner flag. We seemed to switch off as the throw was taken and the ball was swung out to their right. I was unable to stop the cross and Heworth's striker climbed highest and headed the winning goal with 6 minutes of the tie remaining.

The old cliché of well at least we can concentrate on the league now springs to mind!!

### **Huntington Rovers V Dunnington**

Tom Hewer, Sam Marshall, Glen Banks, Neil Cadywold, Paul Fawcett, Gaz Hirst, Steve Kendall, Ian Proctor, Pat Noon, Andy Bullivant, Chris Johnson (Fishy). Subs. Paul Dyson, Graham Macdonald, Chris Dower.

This fixture is normally hard fought with few goals as again this game proved. The ref. made his intentions clear before the game, no swearing, and no jewellery (even wedding rings (Who thinks of these rules? Not players I'm sure)). Both teams had chances early in the game with Tom in goal (replacing the injured Ben Marshall) flapping at a cross but he managed to grab the ball at the 2nd attempt. Cady and Sam were solid in the centre clearing anything that came their way and we seemed to be busy all over the pitch, first to the ball, it was good to see. There was a succession of free kicks which neither side seemed to understand as the tackles weren't exactly flying in, the ref. too petty and pedantic. One such free kick from the left was swung in by the old fella (me) and Bully latched onto it with a right foot volley which I'd like to say flew in the net (it didn't) but it did cross the line, that was Bully's 2nd goal in 2 games. On the stroke of halftime Fishy ran onto a long ball down the left, he pulled the ball back into my path and I crossed / shot towards goal only for the ref. to blow for half time just before the ball hit the post and bounced out. It would have been interesting to see what would have happened if it had gone in!

The 2nd half was much more of the same, although I felt Dunnington were probably the better side, they threw more players forward and we seemed to be under the cosh for long periods, as they over ran us in midfield and bombarded us with high balls due to their giant of a centre forward (at least 6 foot 5"). Banksy was replaced by Macca and Kendo slotted in to right back where he continued to have a good game, Sam and Cady remained strong at the back and Tom took some pressure off by claiming the high balls into the box. Midway through the half Proc broke free in midfield and found himself running towards goal, he unleashed a shot from the edge of the box with just the keeper to beat but somehow managed to rattle the bar. As the ball came back to him he headed the ball towards goal but the keeper was quickly on his feet and pushed the ball past the post for a corner. Although Dunnington remained on top for the remainder of the game, we managed to hold on and take all 3 points. 3 league games played, 1 win and 2 draws. Onto the Cup next weekend.

### **Wigginton G'Hoppers V Huntington Rovers**

Ben Marshall, Sam Marshall, Glen Banks, Neil Cadywold, Gaz Hirst, Steve Kendall, Ian Proctor, Paul Dyson, Nick Fenton, Andy Bullivant, Chris Johnson (Fishy). Subs. Ali Bell, Graham Macdonald, Pat Noon.

I almost managed to select the same starting XI 2 games running for the 1st time in 2 seasons of running the reserves, but a problem ankle left me deciding to leave myself out of the squad for this game. Last seasons 'Managers Player of the Year' Glen Banks made his 1st appearance of the season. Following a list of instructions from the ref before the start we knew what he was going to be like and our opponents were always tough to play against. We set off well with Fishy closing their back 4 down, Wiggy had a couple of early chances that came to nothing thanks to some good defending from Sam and Cady. A ball over the top gave Fishy the chance to open the scoring, the ball bounced around between defender and Fishy and the ball was dispatched into the net only for the ref to rule a handball had taken place. Shortly afterwards from a Fenno corner, Cady nicked in and headed the ball clearly over the line only for the ref to wave play on, even the Wiggy players knew it had gone in! The ref's half time explanation that "he could have been in a better position to give the goal" did not help me! So 0-0 at half time. I was pleased with our effort; a little more composure on the ball particularly in the last 3rd was required.

Noony replaced the unwell Paul Dyson in the centre of midfield. Midway through the half a chance fell to Kendo which he finished well. We were on top and now, 1 up and seemingly in control but a lapse in concentration let in Wiggy to equalise. This happened with about 25 minutes to go and I replaced Banksy (holiday legs) with Macca upfront going to a 3-4-3 formation, as I felt we could cope at the back and could press for a winner. Less than a minute later we were 2-1 up as Fenno on the left of midfield struck a neat right footed lob over the Wiggy keeper. I immediately changed formation back to 4-4-2 with Ali (replacing Bully) slotting in at right back. The change looked promising as another few chances went begging only for Wiggy to win a corner and then bundle in a soft 2nd goal. Worse was to come as a simple ball over the top of the back 4 left Wiggy with only Ben to beat in goal, the forward coolly found the corner. 3-2 down with time running out, Wiggy were pressing and Ben made a couple of good saves. In the last minute we won a corner which was slung into the box and somehow in the crowded area, Proc managed to back heel the ball into the net. 3-3.