

South Bank Cuaco

Secretary's Report 2013/14

It is with sadness that my report commences to record, as the season drew to a close, the passing of the Club's President Doug Mumford on 13th May 2014 at the age of 93. There were several members of the Club and many more from the amateur cricket and football fraternity present at Doug's funeral on 2nd June to pay their respects.

As was the case for the previous season the atrocious weather in mid winter enforced the postponement of many fixtures both at home and away and it is to the great credit of Toff Choudhury that all of the Club's fixtures were completed with the final game being played on 17th May being the last date permitted by the SAL for League fixtures to be played.

The Club's playing performance overall far from outstanding with the exception of the 5th team, as reported below, but all teams avoided relegation from their respective Division, all be it that the first three sides played in the lowest Division of their Section of the League. Again with the exception of the 5th team by early January all other teams had been eliminated from their respective AFA or SAL Challenge Cup competitions.

The 1st XI captained by Christian Paschina finished propping up Senior Section Division III. The side suffered with injuries and an unsettled team making league points hard to find. The first point was not gained until February against NUFC Oilers who carried on to win the Division by a clear 12 points. The side took first round exits from both the AFA Senior Cup losing to Kings Old Boys in November and to Old Salopians in the Surrey/Kent Senior Cup in late September.

The 2nd XI captained jointly by Saheed Bakare and Saheed Mustapha finished in a lowly 10th position in Intermediate Section Division III of the SAL. The side was unfortunate to be drawn away to Silhill "B" in the AFA Intermediate Cup in September. The logistics of the tie was an obstacle in itself as Silhill play in Solihull in the West Midlands and with an incomplete side a 6-0 defeat was not a disgrace. The Referee complimented the team on their "never give up" spirit and on the attitude they showed. A 9-3 defeat to Old Tiffinians 1st eliminated the side from the AFA Intermediate Surrey/Kent Cup in October.

The 3rd XI captained by Ian Pereira finished in 5th place in Division III of the Junior section of the League . The side was eliminated in their first ties of both the AFA Junior Cup losing to Weirside Rangers in extra time team in September after extra time and in the SAL League Junior Challenge Cup to Old Esthameians in November.

The 4th XI captained by Lawrence Collings finished in 8th place in Minor section Division III South of the League. In November playing against West Wickham Edward Watson was very unfortunate to suffer a fracture to both the tibia and fibula of his right leg. Edward has made a good recovery and now awaits playing again when the season commences. Defeat to Old Finchleians 4th team in the AFA Minor Cup in October was followed by a victory in November over East Barnet Old Grammerians 6th in the SAL League Senior Novets Challenge Cup before succumbing to Allen Old Boys in December

The 5th XI captained jointly by Andy Argyle and Luke Rosseau had a successful season finishing as champions of SAL Minor section Division IV South by a margin of 6 points over HSBC 7th . The honours were reversed the SAL League Intermediate Novets Challenge Cup when in the final played on 5th April at Old Westminster Citizens ground the team lost 3-1 to HSBC 7th . In the AFA Senior Novets Cup the team progressed through to January before losing to Old Wilsonians.

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The 6th XI captained by Toff Chourdhury playing also in SAL Minor section Division IV South finished in a respectable 5th position. In the AFA Intermediate Novets Cup they lost to Old Finchleians 6th in November. An early exit was taken in September from the first round of the SAL League Intermediate Novets Challenge Cup when they lost to Old Salesians 4th.

Edward Watson again took charge of the Club's training which commenced in Dulwich Park and later continued at Crystal Palace under floodlights on an artificial surface until his involvement was curtailed by his injury mentioned above. As in previous years the thanks of the Club go to Edward for his training skills and enthusiasm which he contributed to the Club.

Dylan Parry continued in the role Club's Communications Officer and as intended he re-established the Club's website which he managed and along with other Social media, provided an excellent form of communication to members.

Toff Chourdhury took over the organisation of the Club's end of season Presentation evening held at the Pavilion, Dulwich Sports Ground which I was unable to attend and therefore I am without detailed information to report on the evening.

Toff Chourdhury was also responsible for organising the Club Tour to Barcelona in May which had mixed fortune on the field but none the less was enjoyed by all.

The Club's Discipline record deteriorated rapidly from late March through to the end of the season moving beyond AFA Stage I to Stage II when the Club incurred fines of £25 and £50 respectively. Several of the mis-conduct instances were for offences when the ball was "not in play" and could have easily been avoided. An improved mis-conduct record for the season 2014/15 is now essential.

Let's hope that there will be an improvement in the winter weather conditions and that the 2014/15 season will experience minimal interruption

Colin Ferris

26th August 2014