

OHAFC CLAIM ARTHURIAN LEAGUE TITLE FOR THIRD TIME IN CLUB'S HISTORY

The Old Harrovian 1st XI soccer team claimed the Arthurian League title for the third time in its history last week after a magnificent season that saw the side win its last six games to finish just two points clear of long-time leaders Charterhouse, the championship being confirmed thanks to a 3-0 win over Westminster on the final day of the season.

The last six seasons have now seen the team win the League twice, finish runners-up three times and claim the prestigious Arthur Dunn Cup, a remarkable achievement given the importance that, historically, many of the other schools place on the sport compared to Harrow. Quentin Baker's side suffered just two defeats in the League all season: one prior to Christmas against KCS Wimbledon when a disastrous opening half-hour saw the Blues go 3-0 down, and a second at home to Brentwood in early March, when defensive errors contributed to a 4-3 loss that appeared to consign the team to a second successive runners-up finish as Charterhouse were then well clear at the top of the table. But the next fixture, away to the league leaders, was to prove pivotal. In front of a large and vocal crowd Harrow played superbly to win 3-1 and reignite the belief that the title was still



Quentin Baker with the Arthur Dunn Cup

a possibility. Victories over KCS Wimbledon, Forest and Highgate followed before the crunch rematch with Charterhouse that would ultimately determine the destiny of the League trophy. Once again, the Blues played magnificently and once again they won 3-1, scoring two fine goals in the first half and rebuffing intense Charterhouse pressure until

just five minutes from time – a breakaway goal in the last minute confirmed that Harrow's fate now rested in their own hands for the first time this season.

There was to be no slip-up in the final encounter against an already-relegated Westminster side and the Blues finished the season with thirteen wins, one draw and two defeats from sixteen games; Aldenham's expulsion midway through the season seeing another Harrow victory discounted.

There were unquestionably two key reasons for this season's success: the emergence of several younger players that improved the squad depth considerably and the promotion to the first team of goalkeeper Luke Raffety (Rendalls 1998³) and centre half Fred Milln (Moretons 1998³) – both performed consistently well throughout the season and contributed enormously to the side's impressive defensive record of just seventeen goals conceded in the sixteen matches.

Full details of the season can be found on the OHAFC website at www.ohafc.com. For details of pre-season training and all the Club's activities please contact Club Secretary Fred Richardson at fred.richardson@hanoverprivateoffice.com



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