



SPRING 2006

# HARROW RECORD

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM HARROW SCHOOL



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### OHAFC 1ST XI CHASE LEADERS CHARTERHOUSE IN LEAGUE TITLE RACE

Just over half of the Arthurian League season has been completed and there is plenty of reason for optimism among the swelling ranks of the OHAFC membership.

After a very disappointing early exit from the Arthur Dunn Cup, the 1st XI set about regaining the League title they ceded to Eton last season with a strong opening to their League programme. A comfortable 4-0 win over newly promoted Bradfield was a fine way to start, although the team performed nowhere near their full potential, a fact highlighted by a 3-0 defeat at home to Shrewsbury in the next match.

However, as fitness and form gradually returned, the team then put together an excellent run of four straight wins in which they scored 25 goals, the highlight of which was undoubtedly the 5-3 home win over a Charterhouse side that had, until that point, won five games out of five.

An under-strength Harrow side then suffered in the wind and rain away to Forest School – in a bad-tempered match, three second-half goals broke Harrovian spirits. But the side did not have long to correct their poor showing: the return fixture was played just a week later and a full-strength Harrow team eager for revenge proved far too strong for their opponents and won in emphatic style, the final score 7-0.

A terrible traffic jam in East London left both the 1st and 2nd XIs short of players and kit for their joint fixture away to Chigwell in the week before Christmas, but after some frantic negotiations with opposition captains and referees enabled both games to kick off nearly an hour late, the two teams did the Club proud, coming away with two narrow wins in highly adverse conditions.

The turn of the year saw the 1st XI continue their excellent run of form with a 5-0 mauling of Repton and a hard-fought 2-1 win over third-placed Brentwood. Sadly however, the crucial home game against Eton

then saw the weather take its toll, with the fixture moved onto the other side of the Hill and a pitch that was less than conducive to attractive, attacking football. Eton took full advantage, overturning an early second half Harrow goal to triumph 2-1, with their winner coming in the last minute. Although Harrow deserved more, the result could prove crucial in the race for the title, with Charterhouse continuing to forge ahead at the top of the table, now six points clear.

The 2nd XI need to put together a strong final third to their season if they are to challenge for promotion from Division Five. Results have improved from last season although luck has definitely not been on their side, but the lack of a killer touch against inferior teams has cost them in tight games. They currently lie five points behind second-placed Winchester with five games remaining and are likely to need to win at least four of them to go up.

Their focus will now be concentrated on the Junior League Cup however, with a Second Round tie against Old Cholmelians' 2nd XI offering a realistic chance to progress to the latter stages.

The Veterans' XI put up a fine display against traditionally one of the strongest sides in Vets Cup football, the Old Carthusians. Played on an excellent pitch at the Bank of England ground in early January, Harrow were unfortunate to be trailing 3-1 at the break. Had early second-half chances been put away, the tie could have been salvaged, but as is so often the case with the over-35s, fitness proved vital and a stronger Carts side ran out 5-1 victors with a couple of late goals giving the scoreline a distorted look.

The recently-formed U23 development side has flourished under the Mourinho-like leadership of 1st XI striker Harry Hoffen (*Rendalls 1990*), with wins against Eton and Winchester and a narrow defeat to Charterhouse testament to the quality of

*Above left: competitors in the Five-a-Side Cup. Right: high octane action in the competition*

young players beginning to come through the School. It is sincerely hoped that many of these players will continue to enjoy representing the Old Harrovians in the coming years so that the size and quality of the pool of available players continues to improve.

The recent Jubilee Five-a-side Cup saw a mixture of OHs and current school 1st and 2nd XI players combine for an afternoon of high-octane football in the School sports hall, with Tim Dalton (*Newlands 1992*) and current school captain Ed Martins (*Elmfield*) lifting the trophy. The event once again proved an excellent prelude to the forthcoming 11-a-side games which this year it is hoped will be played on the superb new School 1st XI pitch.

The annual Club dinner, which was held at the Imperial Hotel in Russell Square on February 10th, attracted close to 100 members to celebrate another fine year for Old Harrovian football.

And finally, the Easter Tour returns this year with glamorous Vale do Lobo in the Algarve the venue for a week's footballing fun in the sun. Twelve Old Harrovians and a few of the current School team will venture to establish new markets for the Club in a region hitherto unaware of the footballing genius currently emanating from a small corner of northwest London...

Any OH wanting to play football for the Club on a serious or casual basis is more than welcome to attend training every Tuesday evening at the Astroturf under the Westway from 6.30pm-8pm: directions and all other club information can be seen on the website: [www.ohafc.com](http://www.ohafc.com)

DAVID LEDERMAN (*NEWLANDS 1988*)