

Beacon Hill Rovers Reserve Team Report 2009-10

It was an odd season in many ways, starting off full of hope and expectancy, drifting in the middle before exploding again at the end. We won our first seven league games, scoring three goals in six of those games, and eight in the other. In between times was a league cup reverse at home to a strong Burnham Ramblers outfit - the following week we beat the "same" Burnham side 3-0 in the league with two goals disallowed and the woodwork rattled several times.

Our first league defeat came at Focus Ferrers, who have been a thorn in our side before, and on the day were deserved winners. We bounced back in some style, winning the next seven games, which included 4 County Cup ties. Notably these included a fine 5-1 win at Steeple Bumpstead, a 4-2 victory over Division 1 Tillingham, and a 4-0 demolition of Burnham.

Suddenly we were in the County Cup Semi Final, untrodden territory, and up against Writtle Manor, riding high in Division 2, and beaten only once all season. We prepared for this match by being soundly beaten at home by title rivals Felsted. On the day we were missing our leading goalscorer to Barbados, our midfield lynchpin to Arsenal and our goalkeeper was injured, as was our regular right back. 15 minutes in and our Centre Half went lame, and had to be replaced. Against all the odds we battled superbly, took a first half lead, only to be immediately pegged back. The game was won with 10 minutes remaining, and we were through to the final.

The following 10 games were all league games, and saw our title hopes disappear as we won only once, drew 4 times and lost 5 times. Minds were presumably on the cup final, where we were due to face St Cleres from Division 1, unbeaten at that stage in all competitions, and gunning for the treble.

Under the cosh for most of the first half, but only a goal behind, self belief began filtering in during the second period, and we gave it a real go, equalising with just over 10 minutes remaining. Full Time 1-1 and so to extra time. With St Cleres seemingly devoid of ideas we pushed forward and got our reward to win the game 2-1 and lift a County Cup for the first time in the Club's 90 year history. Superb, just superb.

With four league games still to play, and promotion a possibility, we duly lost the next two games before winning the final two games. This was enough to give us a 3rd place finish and promotion to Division 3 for 2010/11.

Quite a season: history made and back in Division 3 after many years. We were, at times, the best team in the division, but injuries and other absences plus a lack of depth ultimately cost us any league silverware, but this was more than made up for by our cup exploits.

Steve Carter
Reserve Team Manager