

Mariner has hand in all three to topple reigning champions

>> Limping Nalu Moso nets crucial third to give Dragons breathing room

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MIDDLESEX LEAGUE

MIDDLESEX PREMIER LEAGUE

British Airways 2

Kensington Dragons 3

A DRAGON gamble paid off big time on Saturday against the league champions on their own lush turf.

The smooth surface enjoyed by all at BA's Osterley Concorde Club was exactly what the current table-toppers hoped for.

But when ace scorer Geoff Nalu Moso picked up an ankle knock in the first half it looked unlikely he would survive for long.

But just as boss Miguel de Sousa had given up hope and was about to sub the limping forward, a cross from a move by Tom Madden and George Mariner found Nalu Moso



■ **TOP CLASH:** Kensington Dragons' Seymour Scott clips a ball forward in the game with BA

Photo by Grant Humphreys www.buyaphototrms.co.uk WL20137220

to volley home for a crucial 3-1 lead on the hour.

Job done, off came the striker and Luke O'Donoghue, also in the wars, and a side shorn of a couple of regular faces at the start, did the ugly stuff to repel all but a single BA reply.

Dragons seconds moved level with Sporting Hackney at the Senior Reserve summit after a 1-1 draw with Fire Christian resses, but life at Sloane gets no better.

A side that once mixed it with the best in the Premier lost their 10th match, 4-1 at FC Assyria, and they are rock bottom and five points adrift of safety.

This time last season they had pretty much the same points and were destined to finish sixth, but they did receive two walkover wins.

Debutant keeper Harry Brown picked the ball out of his net after just seven minutes, but hope sprang eternal when a deep Ali Salama free kick was cushioned into the path of James Burden, who made no mistake from 10 yards.

But it was cruel fate when Salama's misplaced pass towards Burden allowed an Assyria midfielder to nip in and provide his striker with the chance to make it 2-1 for the home team.

There were a couple more chances for a team bang out of luck and confidence, but it was Assyria who wrapped up the points in the second half.