

Madden grabs winner but too late to calm angry boss

>> Manager not happy with leaders' first run out of the new year

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KENSINGTON DRAGONS FC

MIDDLESEX PREMIER LEAGUE

Interwood 4
Kensington Dragons 5

THE sweat ran river deep at Dragons' training session last night (Thursday).

Boss Miguel de Sousa was none too impressed with the fitness of a side that nearly produced a turkey after Christmas.

He decided hard yards were needed in training to work off mince pies and other excesses.

However, it says something that even after a so-so performance, Kensington still came out on top, albeit by the skin of their teeth when Tom Madden scored the decisive ninth goal with time running out.

Sub Dean Humphrey launched a throw into the box which was flicked on and Madden rammed home from around the penalty spot. But there was plenty of huffing and puffing before that.

"We hadn't played for almost a

month, and you can't beat match fitness," added de Sousa, who said he watched some of the action through gritted teeth.

"It used to be we would only win by the odd goal. Now we've scored 11 in the last two games a month apart, but have plenty of work to do on defence."

Billy Maxwell moved top of Kensington scoring charts when he latched on to Madden's pass, saw his first effort saved, but not the rebound as he headed past the Interwood keeper.

Talking of keepers, Ryan Moore at the other end might have done better with the equaliser, before Jon Malone got his body shape all wrong to put one of the league's giants ahead.

After the break, Geoff Nalu Moso restored parity direct from a corner, but Interwood added grey to de Sousa's thatch before Madden thumped a penalty straight at the keeper – but got luckier with the rebound. Interwood regained the lead for the third time on 65 minutes, but Maxwell, courtesy of Nalu Moso, levelled for 4-4 and his 11th of the campaign. At that moment the Dragons manager would have settled for a point.

"We were looking more and more stretched in the final minutes," said a relieved de Sousa, "but the winner was a bonus, and our lead at the top puts pressure on the sides trying to catch up."



■ MATCH-WINNER: Tom Madden

File