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Levato hits two as reserves follow in Usain Bolt's footsteps

KENSINGTON DRAGONS FC

SENIOR AMATEUR RESERVE DIVISION
 Kensington Dragons Reserves 3
 CB Hounslow Reserves 1
 USAIN Bolt and Sergio Aguero had to contend with long grass at the Linford Christie Stadium in midweek when they made their Puma advert.

But Hammersmith and Fulham Council cut it in time for Kensington Dragons Reserves to chalk up a debut win over CB Hounslow at their new home.

An Andrea Levato double and one for manager Jon Laycock, coaxed out of semi-retirement approaching his 40th birthday took Dragons from behind to make it three wins out of three this season. Laycock was one of seven changes for Dragons – the curse of second XI football – and though they started brightly the hosts found themselves behind when pressure from CB culminated with a cross-shot into the far corner.

However, they levelled on the stroke of half-time when Alvaro Ferrer and Hassan Osman won a

corner and when Adam Finch's delivery was headed on by Laycock, Levato sneaked in to poke the ball over the line.

A tactical switch to 3-5-2 followed and Dragons grabbed the lead when Shegun Beckley was tripped in the box and Levato bagged his second of the afternoon from the spot.

There was still some defending to do as a big, physical CB side applied pressure in search of a leveller, but the points were sealed when Levato turned provider for Laycock to power home a late header.



■ **BACK AGAIN:** Jon Laycock
 Photo by Wallid Ackbar

Dominant Dragons have to settle for O'Donoghue strike

>> Profligacy almost allows neighbours to snatch unlikely draw

by **Jon Batham**
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MIDDLESEX COUNTY LEAGUE

PREMIER DIVISION
 Sloane 0
 Kensington Dragons 1
DRAGONS boss Miguel de Sousa believes his side have finally found the momentum he has been expecting following their 1-0 win at neighbours Sloane on Saturday.

The victory, courtesy of Luke O'Donoghue's stunning early volley, was the third on the bounce for newly promoted Dragons, who are unbeaten in seven since their one-goal defeat to fellow high-flyers FC Assyria on the opening day.

Linford Christie Stadium-based Dragons are now just three points behind leaders British Airways with a game in hand and their lofty position is no real surprise to their manager.

He said: "The three wins together is a run which builds confidence.

"I was always sure wins would come once we stopped conceding

sloppy, needless goals, because there has not been a team so far we have not outplayed and I don't think that is boastful.

"It is really just a compliment on how well we have adjusted to life in the Premier League."

The goal that clinched the points came on 20 minutes when O'Donoghue shielded a lofted-through ball before volleying over the stranded home keeper from 30 yards.

De Sousa's one gripe with his team is they did not go on to add to their tally.

He added: "The one disappointment for me is our dominance of the match was not expressed in the final scoreline.

"Sloane lost 8-3 last week and I doubt they would have been dominated like that even in that game, so we need to be more clinical in the final third."

Dragons also rattled the bar with a free kick from the halfway line which missed everybody, while the cautious hosts, conscious of their drubbing seven days earlier, saw their best hope of a point disappear late on when Russell Pickett sliced a clear chance high over the bar.

Boss James Burden said: "We started strongly, but again found ourselves lost for ideas in the final third of the pitch.

"We need to find a way of being more ruthless on the attack,



■ **UNDER PRESSURE:** Russell Pickett went closest to equalising for Sloane
 File

but with a squad of midfielders and a lack of recognised strikers it means players having to play in positions they are not used to.

"In truth if Dragons had been more ruthless themselves the game would have been over sooner than it was."