

Master and apprentice take Dragons to top of the table

>> Osman and former coach O'Donoghue net goals to topple leaders

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FOOTBALL

SENIOR MIDDLESEX RESERVE DIVISION
Sporting Hackney Res 1
Kensington Dragons Res 2
LUKE O'Donoghue was coaching Dragons U13s when he first came across Hassan Osman.

He must have made a decent fist of it, because Osman's winner eight years later was tribute to O'Donoghue's work, with both playing in the same team on Saturday.

Keeper Ryan Moore was a pivotal figure in a top-of-the-table clash when the fixture was switched to Astroturf and was the only game in the league to survive the wet weekend.

Right back Osman was in the thick of things from the off when he jinked past three and smacked the crossbar. But the opener arrived straight after.

Captain Adam Finch dinked a beautiful pass over the full back for O'Donoghue to control with his left and find the bottom corner with his right.

Moore then made two point-blank saves, and tipped a 25-yard

thunderbolt on to the bar, with Will Conway mopping up the loose ball.

Dragons were living dangerously, and when Hackney again hit the bar moments later and missed an open goal from two yards, it seemed an equaliser was imminent.

Quite the opposite, as it turned out.

A thumped clearance picked out lone striker Jamanhi Henry who laid off to O'Donoghue, and the master in turn played in winger Andrew Scheck.

He spotted the galloping Osman, whose 60-yard run was rewarded when he crashed a shot past the keeper.

If Kensington thought they were home and hosed, they were soon reminded why Hackney are top of the league.

Another thump against Moore's crossbar this time found a forward who tapped in to halve the deficit.

However, a stalwart defence held out for the last 10 minutes, with subs Justas Krisciunas, Mohammed Al Faisal and debutant Jonathan Kasongo shoring up the back.

Dragons went joint top with Hackney as a result but crucially have two games in hand over the east enders.

Meanwhile, it was a washout for Dragons firsts as well as for Paddington Vale, Fulham Dynamo, Paddington Elite, Sloane, Pearscroft and AFC Hillgate.

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■ INTERVENTION: Will Conway made a vital clearance for Dragons Reserves against Sporting Hackney Reserves

Photo by Waliid Ackbar