

The latest installment of The Londoner FC's inaugural season took place on Saturday against The German All Stars, and once again team selection was made easy as only eleven players were available. This turned out to be a telling factor, as the heat and the stubbornness of the GAS team took its toll as none of The Don's players were able to be rotated.

With debutant Nai playing up front, and Danny Kemp moving to sweeper, the unfamiliar Don's line up started the game intent on playing good possession football. On occasions the team was guilty of making one pass too many, and some promising moves broke down in the final third. While The Londoner had the bulk of the play in the first half, they failed to create enough decent openings. Menhorn had a couple of runs down the right hand side showing some ability with both feet, but nothing coming from the crosses into the box. GAS on the other hand made more of their limited possession, forcing 'keeper Torrance into a couple of decent saves. Central defender Derek Stamp also made a few good interceptions and challenges at critical times.

Half time: The Londoner 0 v The German All Stars 0

The half time talk from the management team asked for an increase in tempo and a more direct style, getting the ball to the forward players with fewer passes. With the wind behind them, and some Dubliner players arriving early eagerly awaiting a slip up from The Don's, the second half kicked off and quickly settled into a familiar pattern, Londoner having most of the possession and making headway to the GAS goal. Ten minutes in, and after a few blocked attempts, the ball broke to Khun Paum who shot from just inside the box, beating the GAS 'keeper for the opening goal.

This seemed to settle the players and The Londoner's supporters on the side lines, but a second goal was vital to ease the nerves. Fifteen minutes later Khun Deng duly obliged thundering in a shot from a very tight angle with the GAS 'keeper stunned. This should have been enough to secure the points but more drama was to unfold.

With ten minutes remaining the referee deemed an innocuous challenge by Kemp to be a penalty. Kemp was also booked for the challenge. The GAS player stepped up and sent Torrance the wrong way from the spot. Five minutes later with the Don's player Nai lying injured, and GAS in possession, another forward was allowed to progress into the Don's penalty area, and he poked the ball into the net, making it 2 - 2.

This obviously shocked The Londoner players into some action, and Paum had a great shot punched away by the 'keeper. The resultant corner didn't produce the desired effect and the game ended level. While The Germans were able to use their squad and rest players when needed, The Londoner didn't have this luxury and some tired and dejected players left the field. Nai and Tic worked hard up front without getting any rewards, and solid performances were put in by Manas and Entwhistle.

Final score: The Londoner 2 v The German All Stars 2

Man of the match: Deng