

Londoner FC

The Reporter



Dons see off determined Patana 4-1

Weekend Results

- Bullshead give a traditional welcome to newcomers, whopping Sunbelt 10-0
- Les Gaulois defeated Winking Frog 4-2 in the top clash of the weekend
- Reigning champs Dubliner secured a narrow victory over a competitive German side
- Seaboard had a good victory over the Scans 5-0
- Robin Hood won narrowly down in Pattaya
- Bkk. Utd saw off BC Casuals 2-0

League Standings

Bullshead	1	3
Seaboard	1	3
Londoner FC	1	3
Les Gaulois	1	3
Bangkok Utd	1	3
Dubliner	1	3
Robin Hood	1	3

Dons did just enough against a very plucky Patana side that was admirably marshaled by Steve MacArthur (aka Macca) to register a win on the opening weekend of the new season.

With an influx of new players more than making up for the loss of a couple of players, high scoring Andy Wild in particular, competition for places will be high, especially in the early stage of the season as Manager Torrance and Assistant MacDonald search for the optimum blend of experience, skill and fitness. Notwithstanding, hopes had been high for the Dons to open their account in some style, especially after some excellent performances in the pre-season friendlies, but this was not to be the case as time and time again a highly combative Patana side pressed at every opportunity, forcing mistakes from Dons players and effectively subduing much of their early offensive action.

Operating in a new formation it was taking the Dons some time to get organized and Patana, especially in the guise of MacArthur were enjoying possession in midfield and wide on the flanks and from one surging run 'Macca' forced Torrance into action low to his left to smother a testing drive. The Dons answered immediately but found Patana's young protégé keeper Michael Murgatroyd on form as he managed to thwart a number of promising moves by coming off his line quickly to deal with breakways and smothering a low drive from Menhorn. MacArthur then

turned his man inside out before trying to curl a shot into the far corner but failed to get the necessary power into the shot and it was easily dealt with. The Dons then struck in 11 minutes with one of their first flowing moves of the game which moved the ball quickly from left to right before being squared across goal into the path of the arriving Navin Downer who blasted home off the post giving the young keeper no chance.

Any hopes that Patana heads would go down were quickly squashed as they continued to match the Dons in the tackle and continued to create chances of their own. One flowing move resulted in a relieved Torrance bundling a first time volleying round the post whilst the end of the half was marked by MacArthur flashing a far post corner over the bar much to the collective relief of the Dons defence.

Half Time: Londoner 1 vs Patana School 0

The half time team talk had some affect which helped by the injection of pace with the arrival of Danai Downer, saw the Dons take up a better shape and create better openings with the front men testing the keeper on several occasions without reward. After 14 minutes of the second half Danai Downer produced a bit of magic taking the ball with his back to goal before swiveling and shooting in one fluid motion to catch Murgatroyd out of position as the ball went in close to the right hand upright. With insurance in the second goal and a more positive second half display against a tired Patana side surely it was game over but once more the opposition fought back and following a some very static defending the ball broke to an unmarked Patana player whose shot came cross curled into the net off the far post to bring them back into the game. This much needed



Danai Downer opened his scoring account with 2 goals in only 40 minutes of football in season opener

boost to Patana helped keep the game interesting from a spectators point of view for the next 15 minutes or so before Menhorn flicked a through ball on to Wat who found space on the left before squaring for an unmarked Danai Downer to fire home to restore the Dons lead back to two after 31 minutes. The Dons then managed to control the game as it ran down with some decent movement and openings created but it was not until the final minute before they rounded off their scoring when Perm was brought down in the box and Navin Downer consummately found the net from the spot not once but twice having been ordered to retake the original effort.

Full Time: Londoner 4 vs Patana School 1

Dons to face Fire & Gas Pattaya

Next week sees Londoner take on the renamed Fire & Gas Pattaya (previously FC Pattaya) armed with the knowledge that both fixtures last year ended in draws with the Dons equalizing late in both games. Torrance and MacDonald will be hoping

to see the team settle quicker as they get better acquainted. Game kicks off at 4.30pm at Patana School for all lovers of the glorious game.

MacArthur and young keeper Michael Murgatroyd were outstanding for Patana, whilst Menhorn, Gasser, Siebring and Kemp had good games for the Dons. Danai Downer started his quest to retain the league's coveted 'Golden Boot' award with a brace but man of the match for his two goals and effective running throughout on a humid opening day was Navin Downer.

Londoner FC: Torrance, Ball, A.Stamp (Firth), D.Stamp (Bruner), Seibring, N.Downer, Kemp (Da Silva), Silvis (Sloan), Menhorn (D.Downer), Gasser, Paum (Wat)

Not used: Jonsson