

Boss parts ways as Casuals lose again

By Finlay Stubbs

Corinthian-Casuals 0, Enfield Town 3
The Pitching In Isthmian Premier Division
Saturday March 18, 2023

CORINTHIAN-CASUALS fell to a disappointing 3-0 home defeat to play-off chasing Enfield Town in a match that turned out to be Justin Fevrier's last game in charge of the club.

The visitors dominated the opening stages and took the lead after eight minutes. Mo Kamara won the ball in mid-field and his shot from long range was excellently tipped onto the bar by Calum Coulter, but Khale Da Costa was the quickest to react, tapping in from close range to put his side ahead.

The hosts then began to adapt to the heavy pitch caused by the pre-match downpour and had a great chance to equalise when Finlay Lovatt and Nathaniel Pinney combined in the Enfield penalty area, before Joe Halsey placed his effort just wide.

At the other end, Enfield Town were awarded a penalty when Jake Cass was brought down by Coulter, giving the visitors an opportunity to double their lead. Cass stepped up and emphatically converted, hammering his attempt down the middle.

After an even start to the second half, Casuals began to create several half chances, including Lovatt looping his effort just wide after showing determination to get forward beyond his man.

Coulter was then called into action, denying substitute Andre Coker one on one after he was played through by Cass. The pair combined again, and this time



Corinthian-Casuals in action against Enfield Town Picture: Katja Hillebrandt

grabbed their side's third with Coker delicately chipping his effort over Coulter to seal the three points for Enfield and deepen the woes of the Casuals players.

Enfield were able to control the closing stages and did not allow Casuals any consolation, defending resolutely and putting their bodies on the line to make sure Nathan McDonald kept a hold of his clean sheet.

Overall, it was a difficult afternoon for

Casuals, who came up against a clinical Enfield side, who showed why they are in the hunt for promotion with their excellent patterns of play as well as delivery into the Casuals area.

After the game, the club parted ways with manager Justin Fevrier, with the team currently second from bottom of the table. There was a very sombre mood around the ground, with the squad forming a huddle in the middle of the pitch at

the full-time whistle. It was a sign of togetherness among the group in the most difficult period, and it filtered out into appreciation towards the supporters for their following on a tough afternoon for the club.

Brian Adamson has been appointed interim manager for the second time this season and his first game back in charge will be next Saturday when Casuals host Wingate and Finchley.

Jacks 'gutted' at missing IPL bonanza

A MUSCLE injury has cost Surrey's Will Jacks his pot of gold – at least for now.

The hard-hitting all-rounder has made spectacular progress during the winter, making his Test, one day international and T20 debuts for England, and it was no surprise that he was a target for Indian Premier League clubs.

Royal Challengers Bangalore paid 3.2 million crore (approximately £320,000) for the services of Jacks, whose attacking ability with the bat and handy off-spin has made him so valuable to Surrey, playing a leading role winning the LV County Championship title last year.

By Richard Spiller

But a leg muscle injury, suffered while fielding for England during the recent ODI series in Bangladesh, saw the 24-year-old depart for home early – having only arrived at the last minute after being an unused member of the Test squad in New Zealand – and scans revealed that he would not be fit in time for the start of the IPL.

Jacks had been hoping that experience gained at the IPL would come in handy for the World Cup 50-over tournament being staged in India later in the year.

"Gutted" was his understandable reaction on Twitter and he is now back with Surrey, who are charge with his rehabilitation. Should that go well, his county might enjoy the bonus of getting him back in action sooner than expected, given the IPL was expected to keep him away until well into May, missing the opening stages of their bid to retain the Championship title.

And playing four-day cricket rather than T20 in the IPL would certainly give Jacks more opportunities to make a convincing claim for a Test recall – having played in two out of three Tests in Pa-

kistan late last year – if he can score a substantial number of runs and continue to refine the off-spinners which earned him 6-161 on his debut in Rawalpindi. An opportunity to play in the Ashes series would be a pot of gold of a different kind.

Jacks's Surrey colleague Reece Topley, who is also with Royal Challengers Bangalore, missed England's T20 series defeat in Bangladesh through a groin niggle but is expected to be fit in time for the IPL.

■ Surrey are mourning the death of fast bowler Matt Dunn's daughter Florence, two, who suffered from Dravet Syndrome, a severe form of epilepsy.

Cornish storms home

By George Mallett

ON the south coast on Sunday, Jonathan Cornish ran away from the rest of the field to take the Eastleigh 10k title in an impressive 30.11.

Though almost a minute outside his personal best, it saw Cornish beat a high-quality field, finishing 13 seconds clear of Will Bryan of Southampton AC.

Cornish has enjoyed a strong start to 2023, finishing fourth in February's Podium Under the Lights 5km and seventh in the South of England Cross Country Championships.

Just over a minute behind Cornish on Sunday was Archie Walton, who took 11th place in a new personal best of 31.12.

Walton is a steeplechase specialist having enjoyed junior success but has enjoyed a productive winter, with Sunday's showing indicating a clear improvement over the longer distances. He will now look to compete over the barriers in the upcoming summer months.

A host of Hercules athletes were seen competing at the Friday Night Under the Lights 5km held in Battersea Park, with Andrew Penney the pick of the bunch, finishing second in the men's elite race.

Penney led the race for most of the middle section before being narrowly out-kicked by professional 800m runner Archie Davis of Brighton Phoenix AC.

Charlie Eastaugh was next for Hercules in the elite race, finishing in 11th in a season's best of 14:43, with Alex Robinson making a very welcome return to action in 51st place and 15.24. For Hercules looking forward to the road relays in April, Robinson's return bodes well.

Also making a return was Liam White, who finished in 16.17 in one of the evening's earlier races. White, who has been plagued by knee trouble in recent years, was a prolific junior, finishing as high as fifth in the English Schools Cross Country Championships in 2011.

Jamie Bannister, finishing 24th in the same race as Liam, took a massive 18 seconds off his personal best to finish just outside the 16-minute barrier in 16.10.

It means the Scotsman has now run personal bests in the 5km and 10km within the last month, the latter beating a seven-year-old mark.

Blues in TV date with City

By Tim Harrison

ONE of the high points of women's football weekend (as internationals switch the spotlight from the men) is Chelsea's trek to Manchester to face City on Sunday lunchtime.

Live on the telly, it follows the Blues' steady march to the arch last weekend (comfortably beating Reading 3-1 in the FA Cup) and the midweek trip to France for the first leg of the Champions League against Lyon, writes Tim Harrison.

The comfortable win at Reading came despite widespread changes in personnel and formation, with Niamh Charles given a rare chance to play centre-forward and space found for attack-minded Russian defender Alsu Abdullina to start, and shine.

She and Jess Carter had excellent games against the Royals, while manager Emma Hayes felt so confident at 3-0 that she gave debuts to three youngsters: Reanna Blades, Ashanti Akpan and Carys Brown.

Although Reading clawed a goal back, it didn't affect the outcome, and it showed real confidence in the next generation of Chelsea players.

Meanwhile, the men drew 2-2 last weekend with Everton, continuing to build (slowly) on a sense of renewed hope and confidence at Stamford Bridge – one they'll surely need as Real Madrid are next up in the Champions League.

Blizzards crowned league champions



Beddington Park

It all comes down to this – the Wallington Tornadoes against the Beddington Park Blizzards.

An early corner by George Duke was whipped into Boyan Terzov, who saw his header saved by Jake Moore, but Leo Mehmet was there to tap in the rebound. 1-0.

The Tornadoes looked to bounce straight back and an attack down the right-hand side saw a fantastic effort by Tommy Whitty. The ball hit the inside of the post and out.

A ball over the top by Ethan Davis was picked up gracefully by Jack Herbert, who tried to square for the oncoming

By Patrick Hutchison

George Duke only for it to be cut out by Fred Hutchison. The resulting corner causing mayhem in the box, and man for the big occasion Leo Mehmet headed in to make it two.

Another corner and another goal, this time by Ethan Davis. The quality of the corners was unreal.

A back post run spotted by George Duke, another perfectly executed pass and Jack Herbert slotted home to make it four.

A quick free kick by Muhammad puts

Lewis Holliman through. A low shot is saved by BPB goalkeeper Edward Mason.

Leo Mehmet then rather fortuitously finds the back of the net via a deflection. That's 5-0 and a hat trick.

The reds are showing great fighting spirit with Muhammad picking up a loose ball and finishing from distance – 5-1.

A much tighter second half with the Tornadoes nerves settling. A shot from the edge of the box by Cole Robertson goes just wide followed by a shot from Azandah Ajao, which was blocked.

A ball over the top and Jack Walton is

through on goal. Only one outcome in this situation. Composure personified – 5-2

A flurry of shots from the Tornadoes saved and blocked. They are looking like a completely different team this half.

Azandah with a back post cross and Lewis Holliman misses the target by inches.

A free kick from 18 yards out hammered against the crossbar by Tommy Whitty, the second time he has hit the woodwork. On another day this could be 5-5 but that's the full-time whistle, crowning Beddington Park Blizzards 2022/23 league champions.