

Polytechnic 9s – Old Wilsonians 9s 6-1 (1-0)

14.3.2015, Goals: Carlos, Arash, Rids, Diego, Matt, Max

Line-up:

Reza, Istvan-Karl-Petr-Matt, Diego-Dimitris-Nickos, Borja-Arash

Great finish of a successful season

In the last game of the season we hosted Old Wilsonians 9s and wanted to confirm our very successful campaign with a win. We started well and kept passing the ball around however we experienced lack of confidence in finishing. It was our right back Matt who broke the dead-lock and opened the score with a powerful shot from inside the box (**Matt**, 1-0). We then created several good opportunities to score more goals but failed in finishing. We held a very tight lead in the half time.

For the second half Carlos replaced Borja and Rids replaced Max. We squeezed our opponents and got soon rewarded when Carlos's cross was deflected passed the goalkeeper (**Carlos**, 2-0).

Few minutes later Old Wilsonians put one goal back and sniffed the chance to get back to the game (2-1). Luckily Diego scored our third goal and put the team at ease (**Diego**, 3-1).

We continued to play our game and scored 3 more goals in the last 10 minutes when by **Max** (4-1), **Arash** (5-1) and **Rids** (6-1).

Overall it has been a very successful season for the team that was created nearly from scratch. Apart from very few games we played very good football and were a competitive side to all our opponents. I would like to thank and congratulate to everyone who contributed for their hard work. It has been a real joy and fun to manage this team!.

Polytechnic 9s – Old Wilsonians 8s 1-2 (0-2)

28.2.2015, Goals: Carlos

Line-up:

Miltiadis, Diego-Dimitris-Petr-Matt, Dani-Jan-Andy SJ-Carlos, Arash

Poor first half cost us dearly

Last February Saturday offered a long awaiting Finale of Division 5 between the league winners Old Wilsonians 8s and currently second Polytechnic 9s. Despite knowing the importance of the match we started very poorly and our performance didn't match the standard we have been playing throughout the entire season.

There was no composure, no willingness to make an extra effort, extra tackle or extra

run.

We conceded the first goal 15 minutes into the game when we lost the ball in the middle of the park, were out-numbered in the defense and the visitors' shot ended back in our net (0-1). This was no wake-up call and we conceded second goal few minutes later (0-2). It was the first time in the entire season we were losing by 2 goals.

In order to change the game Borja replaced Dani and Max replaced Andy SJ. Our performance improved and we started to create chances. Just before the half time Matt made a great run inside the opponents' box where he was trapped down – penalty.

After Arash missed his penalty last game Borja took the responsibility. First attempt was stopped by a goal-keeper however the referee decided he hadn't blown the whistle yet so Borja was awarded a second chance – to miss again! Another missed penalty pretty much summarized our diabolical first half.

We had a big talk over the break and were determined to put up a fight in the second half. Our performance significantly improved and the opposition didn't have a single shot on our target. On the other end of the pitch we pushed and tried to score. Dimitris's free kick hit the post, Petr's header missed a post by inches and Carlos's shot was denied by a goal-keeper.

We finally managed to score 3 minutes before the final whistle from penalty (**Carlos**, 1-2) but it wasn't enough to gain at least a point.

This was supposed to be the match of the season to secure a second place. Unfortunately we have to admit we weren't good enough, particularly in the first half. Now our fate is in other teams' hands (or rather legs).

Bank of England 5s – Polytechnic 9s 2-5 (1-2)

7.2.2015, Goals: Dewayne, Istvan, Diego, Jan

Line-up:

Miltiadis, Istvan-Karl-Petr-Matt, Jan-Matthew-Dimitris-Stef, Dewayne-Arash

Well deserved 3 points in a thrilling Saturday afternoon

For our last Away game of this season we traveled to Bank of England. High standard facilities and well prepared main pitch promised a good football. We started exactly in the same manner we did last week. We soon took a lead when Istvan's long distance shot ended up back in the net (**Istvan**, 0-1) to concede an

equaliser just few minutes later (1-1).

It is fair to say that despite the conceded goal we dominated the game and kept creating chances. However our shots went either wide or were denied by an excellent goal-keeper.

20 minutes into the game we finally scored our second goal when Stef's cross found Jan's head inside the box and he gave us a lead (**Jan**, 1-2). Just before the end of the first half we were given a great opportunity to score our third goal to put us in ease. However Arash kicked the ball from the penalty spot over the cross bar...

In the second half we were determined to improve our finish and score more goals. The hosts however sniffed the opportunity to level the game and threaten us from counter attacks. Just when Bank of England increased their pressure on our defense Petr won the ball passed it onto Arash who found Dewayne inside the box and scored our third goal (**Dewayne**, 1-3). It wouldn't have been us though if we hadn't made the game dramatic. Another counter attack on the flank and the hosts managed to score again (2-3). This part of the game was very close but we held on and Dewayne soon scored his second goal (**Dewayne**, 2-4).

We then again created several good chances and pushed for more goals. Diego had the last word in the thrilling afternoon when he scored our fifth goal when he converted a great work from Celso. Celso won the ball on the left side passed it to Diego inside the box and Diego tapped it in (**Diego**, 2-5).

Overall it was a very good performance and well deserved 3 points. We finally found more goal scorers in our team (Istvan, Diego). On the other hand there were too many missed chances underlined by a missed penalty.

HSBC 7s – Polytechnic 9s 2-1 (1-1)

31.1.2015, Goals: Dani

Line-up:

Miltiadis, Istvan-Karl-Petr-Diego, Dani-Matt-Dimitris-Celso, Patrick-Arash

Our performance was way under our capabilities

On the rainy Saturday afternoon we traveled to New Beckenham to play HSBC 7s. We had a dream start when Dani scored in the first minute with a fabulous long shot (**Dani**, 0-1).

We then had another great opportunity to seal our lead but Arash missed from close distance. The hosts pushed for an equalizer and soon were awarded when their unmarked striker headed in a ball from a free kick (1-1). We weren't as compact as usual and nearly got punished again when the host's

striker ran one on one to our keeper but Miltiadis's magnificent save kept us in the game.

In the second half we wanted to push for another goal but weren't very dangerous. Instead of putting in another gear to raise our performance we got frustrated and nervous. We weren't creating many chances and it was HSBC who soon punished us with a counter attack and great shot under the cross bar. We tried to equalize, earned several corners in the last 10 minutes but were unlucky to score...

Merton 6s – Polytechnic 9s 1-5 (0-3)

17.1.2015, Goals: Borja 3, Arash 2

Line-up:

Miltiadis, Matt-Karl-Petr-Alan, Dave-Nickos-Dimitris-Celso, Borja-Arash

Borja's hatrick brought us 3 points in the Saturday muddy afternoon

The third January Saturday brought us to Wimbledon where we faced Merton 6s on a very muddy pitch.

Despite the horrible surface we tried to play football and pass the ball around. In 5th minute Nickos sent a beautiful pass between the center backs to Borja who outpaced his marker and calmly finished alongside the keeper (**Borja, 0-1**).

We continued to play our game and soon got rewarded. Celso won the ball on the left side passed it to Arash whose thunder shot ended up back in the net (**Arash, 0-2**).

The hosts answered with several dangerous counter attacks but our defence (Matt-Karl-Petr-Alan) was focused and successfully eliminated any danger. Just before the half time Petr stopped a counter attack passed the ball to Arash who outpaced the left back, delivered the ball to Borja inside the box whose volley earned us third goal (**Borja, 0-3**).

In the second half Gustavo replaced Celso and we pushed for more goals. Dimitris and Nickos were instrumental in the middle of the park and kept delivering the ball to the flanks and strikers. Arash soon scored our fourth goal after a great ball passing among Dave, Arash and Borja (**Arash, 0-4**). Borja then achieved his hat-trick after another great pass from Dimitris and calm finish (**Borja, 0-5**). The hosts then managed to pull one goal in and we parted with a convincing victory 5-1.

Polytechnic 9s – Old Blues 4s 6-0 (4-0)

10.1.2015, Goals: Manwhinney 3, Arash 2, Chris

Line-up:

Miltiadis, Matt-Karl-Petr-Joe, Chris-Nickos-Dimitris-Ben, Manwhinney-Arash

Convincing start to the new year

It looked like we have been starving for some football over the Christmas and started our first game in New Year in style. 5 minutes into the game and we took a lead after Ben received a great pass behind the visitors' defense, passed the ball to Chris and he tapped it in (**Chris**, 1-0).

We kept pressing our opponents and Manwhinney soon converted his excellent foot work into our second goal (**Manwhinney**, 2-0). Old Blues then got very close and their header from a corner kick missed our goal just by few inches.

Fortunately it was us again who scored when Arash's shot ended up in the left bottom corner (**Arash**, 3-0). We controlled and dominated the game throughout the entire first half and Manwhinney got his second goal just before the half time (**Manwhinney**, 4-0).

In the second half it took us a while to adjust to playing against a strong wind and the visitors locked us in our penalty box. After a few hi-cups between the keeper and defence we calmed down and played the game we did in the first half. Diego then replaced Ben and we pushed for another goal. In 75' we were awarded a free quick which Ben quickly passed on Manwhinney who got hat-trick (**Manwhinney**, 5-0). Borja then came for Ben won the ball in the middle of the field passed it to Arash who calmly finished it (**Arash**, 6-0).

There were several chances on both sides but none ended up in the back of the net so the score remained unchanged.

Polytechnic 9s – Alexandra Park 10s 1-1 (1-1)

13.12.2014, Goals: Arash

Line-up:

Miltiadis, Matt-Karl-Petr-Istvan, Diego-Nickos-Thomas-Steve, Tim-Arash

Close game that could have gone either way



We started our last game of this year very well and created several dangerous chances but none of them was converted into a goal. Arash hit the post, Diego couldn't score from a very close distance, Steve's powerful shot was stopped by a defender's head (he saw Christmas stars early) and Petr's low shot was stopped on the line. We dominated first 20 minutes and had we been 3-0 up nobody would have been surprised.

Then the shock came when Alexandra Park managed to score from a powerful long-distance shot (0-1). We pushed to equalize and Arash finally scored after Matt's free kick cross (1-1, Arash). The visitors consolidated their defense and threatened from counter-attacks. We again squeezed the visitors however the score in the first half remained unchanged.

The second half continued in the same manner like the end of the first one. Carefully playing and compact defense Istvan-Karl-Petr-Matt eliminated visitor's attacks while hard working center midfielders Nickos and Thomas controlled the middle of the park. Steve with Diego penetrated opposition from the flanks and Tim with Arash up front. Jose then replaced Diego and could have become a hero when his shot went over the cross bar by just few inches.

Borja later went on for Nickos and helped to support our attack. Alexandra Park had only one real chance when their shot from close distance was stopped by Miltiadis's magnificent save. The game against a very good side was very close and could have gone either way. The draw is probably a fair result.

Polytechnic 9s – Civil Service 8s 0-1 (0-1)

29.11.2014, Goals:

Line-up:

Ales, Matt-Karl-Petr-Diego, Rids-Dimitris-Andy-Abz, John-Arash

Missed chances cost us...

Unfortunately the only shot the visitors had in the first half ended up back in our net...On the other side of the park we hit the cross bar but were too slow to put the ball in.

In the second half Celso came for John in midfield and we increased the pressure in a pursuit to equalize. We produces several really good shots but all were saved by the visitors' terrific goal-keeper. 10 minutes before the final whistle the GK made a save of the day when he pushed Arash's free kick from top right corner above the cross-bar.

ISEH CUP: Alexandra Park 8s – Polytechnic 9s 2-1 (0-1)

22.11.2014, Goals: *Arash*

Line-up:

Reza, Matt-Karl-Petr-Istvan, Diego-Dimitris-Nickos-Ram, Borja-Arash

The hosts were a luckier team in a very close cup game

ISEH League Cup brought us to Wembley where we faced team playing 2 Divisions above us – Alexandra Park 8s. The hosts had a better entry to the game and put our defence under a constant pressure. The back four (Istvan-Karl-Petr-Matt) were compact and were successfully eliminating dangerous attacks.

After we survived the initial pressure we levelled the game and improved our performance in the central midfield which put lot of pressure off defence. We also started to better support Ram and Diego on wings and Borja with Arash up front. Just when it looked like we would have a goalless first half Arash got a brilliant ball through centre backs and put us to lead (0-1, **Arash**).

For the second half Abz replaced Ram on right wing and we tried to continue where we finished the first half – organised defence and hardworking midfield with dangerous counter attacks. However it was the hosts who managed to equalise (1-1). And to make things worse we committed a foul in our penalty box just few minutes after the equaliser. Fortunately the tallest man on the pitch missed it. We then

calmed down and both teams fought hard for the winning goal. We created several corners but were unlucky to score. 12 minutes before the end of the second half Arash received another great ball through defence but missed the ball just by the tip of his golden boot. We got punished instantly from the counter attack when we conceded from a long shot (2-1).

Overall it was a very good game from which we can take lots of positives. Although we have to admit the hosts were better side we were able to match them and put up a fight in a very close game.

Polytechnic 9s – Bank of England 5s 6-0 (4-0)

15.11.2014, Goals: Arash 2, Rids, Dimitris, Borja, Abz

Line-up:

Alan, Diego-Matt-Petr-Istvan, Rids-Dimitris-Nickos-Abz, John-Arash

Great home win keeps us at top of the table

After 4 away games we finally got to play at our home ground where we hosted Bank of England. We were the better team from the beginning controlling the ball and passing it all around the pitch. We soon took the lead after Abz passed the ball through the penalty box to Arash who tapped it in (**Arash**, 1-0). Soon after our first goal we created several corner kicks after one of which Rids headed in our second goal (**Rids**, 2-0). At this phase of the game we dominated all over the pitch and Abz scored our third goal (**Abz**, 3-0).

The visitors threatened from counter attacks but our defence was alert. Petr and Matt controlled the center of defence and Istvan with Diego covered the sides.

With 3-0 up in just 15 minutes we continued to play good football and pushed forward for more goals. Our fourth goal came from Dimitris' powerful shot from 17 yards (**Dimitris**, 4-0). Dimitris, Nickos and John tirelessly fought for every ball in the midfield and kept delivering passes to Arash up front and to our wings Abz and Rids. We maintained a comfortable lead 4-0 in the half time.

We made one change in the second half when Borja replaced John. The opposition had much better entry to this part of the game than to the first half and pressurized our defense, particularly on wings. However Diego and Istvan had both a great game and didn't allow anything to slip through. And when their strikers got close to our goal they were denied by our goalkeeper. John later came back for Dimitris and we tried to put some more goals in. Rids won the ball on our right wing, ran through the defenders and passed the ball to Arash who chipped the keeper (**Arash**, 5-0). Just

before the end Borja finally broke his bad luck and polished the score-line (**Borja**, 6-0).

In overall it was a great performance from everyone all over the pitch. Petr and Matt orchestrated our defense, our full backs Istvan and Diego successfully eliminated counter attacks, Dimitris with Nickos were instrumental in the midfield and Abz with Rids supported our top striker Arash up front. John and Borja were tirelessly helping to defend as well as push forward in the middle of the park. **Well done lads!**

Civil Service 8s – Polytechnic 9s 4-5 (2-2)

08.11.2014, Goals: *Abz 2, Arash 2, Petr*

Line-up:

Miltiadis, Diego-Karl-Petr-Matt, Rids-Andy-John-Abz, Patrick-Arash

In a 9 goal bonanza Polytechnic was the luckier team

Another league game brought us just across the road to Civil Service. Due to several absentees in our regular team we introduced 3 new players. Matt played right back, John centre midfield and Rids left wing.

Having faced well organised hosts and strong wind we tried to keep the ball on the ground and pass it quickly. Petr and Karl together with Matt and Diego organised defence, John and Andy controlled the middle of the park and Patrick with Arash fought hard up front with the support from Rids and Abz on the wings.

It was however Civil Service that opened the score when the ball bounced off our defenders to their striker who didn't need to do much to put the ball in our net (1-0). We soon managed to equalise when Arash headed the ball in after Rids' corner kick delivery (1-1 **Arash**).

The game was very tight with chances on both sides. The hosts threatened with quick and very dangerous counter attacks after one of which took a lead. Their striker got another great ball in between our 2 centre backs and finished his run with a shot to the left bottom corner (2-1).

We came back just before the end of the first half when Rids fought hard for the ball inside the penalty area and passed it to Abz who equalised (2-2 **Abz**).

In half time we made 2 changes. Borja came for Patrick and Dimitris for Andy to tighten the middle of the park. We now played with the wind and pushed forward. It was however the hosts' quick striker who again received the ball behind our defence and lobbed our goal keeper (3-2).

In a pursuit to bring new energy on the pitch Celso came on for Rids. We created several chances and Arash scored his second goal after Borja's great delivery from

corner kick (3-3 **Arash**). 6 goals so far and it wasn't over yet. Civil Service sent a long throw inside our penalty area where the ball somewhat bounced off their striker and to the surprise of everyone on the pitch flipped over our goalkeeper (4-3).

With less than 10 minutes to play we gave everything to score. Our effort was rewarded when Petr's volley from the edge of the penalty box ended up in the left top corner (4-4 **Petr**). The game was going into the last 5 hectic minutes. Diego won the ball on the left side passed it to Borja who found Abz inside the box and his shot from close distance ended up in the back of the net (4-5 **Abz**). It would not have been us if we had not made the last seconds dramatic. Karl sent a back pass to Miltiadis who saved it with his hands. The referee rightly awarded an indirect kick inside our penalty area! Fortunately for us the ball bounced off our wall and sent Borja to a solo run through the half of the pitch just to be denied by the hosts' keeper.

Big credit to both teams for 9 goals. We need to admit we were the luckier team. Nevertheless we gained 3 important points and remained at the top of the league!

Old Wilsonians 9s – Polytechnic 9s 0-4 (0-3)

01.11.2014, Goals: *Abz 2, Patrick, Arash*

Line-up:

Miltiadis, Diego-Karl-Petr-Alan, Abz-Nickos-Dimitris-Borja, Patrick-Arash

A win put us back to the top of the League

POS		P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
1	Polytechnic 9th	7	5	1	1	22	8	16
2	Old Wilsonians 8th	6	5	1	0	16	4	16
3	HSBC 7th	8	4	1	3	20	16	13
4	Alexandra Park 10th	6	3	2	1	17	12	11
5	Old Blues 4th	7	2	1	4	10	13	7
6	Bank of England 5th	5	2	1	2	7	11	7
7	Civil Service 8th	4	1	0	3	3	5	3
8	Old Salesians 5th	3	0	1	2	3	8	1
9	Merton 6th	3	0	0	3	4	13	0
10	Old Wilsonians 9th	3	0	0	3	0	12	0

For the second time, and luckily the last time in this season, we traveled to Hayes to face Old Wilsonians 9s. On a first November day the weather was ideal and the pitch was very well prepared for good football. If we were to occupy the highest positions in the league we had to aim for 3 points. We therefore changed the formation to 4-4-2 in a pursuit to strengthen the attack.

From the initial whistle we were the better team and soon started to create good chances to score. However despite several promising opportunities we couldn't break the host's defense. In 15 minutes Abz finally scored our first goal on his debut for

Polytechnic (**Abz** 0-1). We continued to push forward and our effort was awarded when Patrick headed in our second goal after Dimitrios' great cross (**Patrick** 0-2). The defense was well organised by Petr and Karl, our full backs Alan and Diego supported Abz and Borja on the wings and Dimitrios with Nickos controlled the middle of the park. Up front Arash together with Patrick gave the hosts' defense a hard time. Just before the half time Abz scored his second goal to secure a comfortable lead (**Abz** 0-3).

In the second half Celso replaced Borja on the right wing and we continued where we finished the first half – pushing forward trying to score more goals. However the hosts tightened their defense and sharpened their counter attacks. Our defence was careful and only allowed one serious chance to threaten Miltiadis in the goal. Abz then passed a ball in between the 2 center backs to Arash who scored our fourth goal (**Arash** 0-4).

The score could have been much higher had we not missed few other great chances. Overall we put up solid performance and gained 3 points which took us back to the top of the league!

Alexandra Park 10s – Polytechnic 9s 1-1 (0-1)

25.10.2014, Goals: *Arash*

Line-up:

Miltiadis, Istvan-Karl-Petr-Anthony, Nickos-Dimitris-Cameron, Jose-Arash-Celso

Did we lose 2 points or did we gain one point?

Read on to find out what happened on a thrilling Saturday afternoon in North London....

After last week's trip to South London we traveled to the other side of London to face current third team in our Division – Alexandra Park 10s. Although the pitch wasn't the best surface we have played on both teams were trying to produce attractive football. We have to admit the hosts were the better side in the first 25 minutes as they created couple of really dangerous chances. Their pressure culminated into several corners after one of which Miltiadis produced a magnificent save to stop a header going just under the cross bar. We then improved and started to penetrate the other end of the pitch. Just before the half time Cameron found Arash in between the 2 centre backs and he clinically opened the score (**Arash** 0-1).

In the second half Andy SJ replaced Nickos. The game was similar to the first half with few chances on both sides but none of them was clear. Our defense was organised, the midfield orchestrated by Dimitris worked hard and Arash was fighting

up front. Celso was instrumental running up and down the pitch helping both the defence and the attack. Diego then replaced Jose on left wing and brought new energy to our attack. It was Diego's first appearance for Polytechnic and soon after he came on he could have scored our second goal. Borja then came on for Cameron and we pushed to secure our victory.

When the referee announced last 2 minutes no one on the pitch had expected what a dramatic and nerve-wrecking 2 minutes are coming. We committed a foul in the middle of the field. 9 opposition players invaded our penalty box and managed to score with a header from the free kick (1-1). With less than 2 minutes remaining we were gutted and felt like we had lost 2 points. One would think both sides would just wait for the final whistle, shake their hands and part with a point. However the Finale was like in horror for Polytechnic 9s. Just when the referee put his whistle to his mouth to end the game we committed a foul inside the box – penalty!!! **Miltiadis however was determined that we didn't come all the way to North London to lose and saved the penalty!!!**

Old Wilsonians 8s – Polytechnic 9s 3-0 (1-0)

18.10.2014

Line-up:

Ales, Jose-Dimitris-Petr-Alan, Nickos-Adam-Celso, Borja-Arash-Juan

This report is very brief but says it all....

Shots: 4 vs 20-ish

Goals: 3 vs 0

Polytechnic 9s – Old Salesians 5s 5-2 (0-1)

11.10.2014, Goals: *Jose, Miltiadis, Borja, Gustavo, Arash*



In another League game we hosted a tough opposition – the team that won the League last season Old Salesians 5s. Many of us still remember the double header against them last season where we lost both games.

Line-up:

Miltiadis, Zeeshan-Karl-Petr-Istvan, Andy SJ-Gustavo-Carlos, Jose-Arash-Juan

We have to admit that we were the worse team in the first half, particularly in the middle of the field. Old Salesians were constantly threatening us and it was just their poor finish that kept our clean sheet. On the other end of the park we created several good chances but none of them ended up in the net. Just before the half time we conceded a goal (0-1).

During the calm half time we talked about what needed to be improved and were all determined to fight back. Borja replaced Juan and we were ready to go. Soon in the second half Jose finally scored with a nice shot next to the left post (**Jose 1-1**). Few minutes later the opposition however managed to take the lead again (1-2).

What happened next can be seen only in New Year's Eve sports curiosity highlights! Miltiadis (our goalkeeper) took a goal kick that bounced in front of the other keeper and flipped over him into the goal (**Miltiadis 2-2**). The equalizer put new energy into our veins and we pushed for the winning goal. Juan came back for Jose and started the Great Finale. His great shot bounced off the keeper and our super sub Borja tapped the ball in (**Borja 3-2**). We didn't stop playing and wanted more. Juan's great work was awarded when he was fouled inside the box and Gustavo converted the penalty into our fourth goal (**Gustavo 4-2**). Just before the end another great ball through and Arash completed the score line (**Arash 5-2**).

That was truly a great comeback after losing the first half and sweet revenge against tough opposition. Well done and big congratulation to everyone involved!!

Polytechnic 9s – Old Wilsonians 7s 2-3 (1-1) AET

04.10.2014, Goals: Arash 2

In the first round of the AFA cup we faced a very strong opposition from Division above – Old Wilsonians 7s.

Line-up:

Miltiadis, Zeeshan-Dimitris-Petr-Istvan, Joe-Nickos-Jose, Borja-Arash-Juan

After a little bit scrappy beginning on the wet surface our performance improved and the game was levelled. Unfortunately it was the opposition who took a lead after a long shot that fell in just under our goalkeeper's cross-bar (0-1). We then created several corners and had few shots on the target but none of them went in. It was just before the half-time when Arash tried his famous long shot and equalised (**Arash 1-1**).

We started the second half in a big style. Matt came on for Borja and it looked like it was just a matter of time when we scored. We increased our pressure and Arash finally scored his second goal in the game (**Arash 2-1**). Carlos then came for Nickos and we kept creating chances. Just when it looked we were going to put in third goal we conceded from a corner kick (2-2). A draw led the match to extra time.

Extra time was very careful with only a few chances on both sides. Just when both team started to think about penalty shoot-out we conceded another goal from long distance (2-3). We put up a frantic fight in the last 5 minutes but it just wasn't meant to be to score.

Overall we can be very proud of our performance. Not only did we match the team from higher division we even outperformed them in most parts of the game. With a little bit of extra luck in finishing as well as defending we would have been through!

Old Blues 4th – Polytechnic 9s 1-3 (1-1)

27.09.2014, Goals: Arash 2, Jose



Line-up:

Miltiadis – Zeeshan, Dimitris, Petr, Joe – Lee, Gustavo, Nickos – Jose, Arash, Juan

We started very well and soon took a lead after Jose converted Juan's cross into his first Polytechnic goal (**Jose 1-0**). The hosts tried to equalize but our defense successfully eliminated their attacks. On the other half of the pitch Jose, Arash and Juan were constantly threatening the Old Blues' goal and earned several corners. Our hard work was awarded just before the end of the first half when Gustavo sent a brilliant pass between the opponents' 2 center-backs to Arash who scored his 6th goal in this season (**Arash 2-0**).

In the second half Old Blues tried to get back in the game and got us under pressure. Defense together with great support from Lee, Nickos and Gustavo fought really hard and Miltiadis made several good saves. We also made few dangerous counter attacks but unfortunately none of them ended in the opposition's net. Old Blues managed to score and the match promised nerve-wrecking last 20 minutes. We made 2 changes – Alan for Lee and Borja for Jose and tried to score third goal to seal our victory. After several missed chances by our attackers Zeeshan took the ball in left back, dribbled through the pitch and hit the post. That would have been a great award for his first appearance in Poly shirt and for his great performance throughout the game. As the host's pressure was increasing Juan made a great run on the right side and crossed the ball to Arash who headed in our third goal. (**Arash 3-1**).

I would like to congratulate and thank to everyone for excellent performance and another 3 points. In particular to Zeeshan who made his debut for Polytechnic and to Lee who was instrumental in his position as a defensive midfielder.

Polytechnic 9s – Merton 6s 5-0 (2-0)

27.09.2014, Goals: *Borja 2, Gustavo 2, Arash*

Line-up:

Alan – Jose-Joe-Petr-Istvan, Steff-Nickos-Gustavo – Carlos, Arash, Juan

After a little nervous start we settled down and started to threaten our opposition. We took a lead after great work from Juan who won the ball for Arash and Arash scored his 5th goal of the season (1-0 **Arash**). We then kept pressurising and earned several corners after one of which Gustavo scored our second goal from outside the big box (**Gustavo** 2-0). Everyone was very disciplined and worked really hard for the whole team.

For the second half Miltiadis replaced Alan in the goal and we continued to play the same game we did in the first half. We were soon awarded by a third goal by Gustavo's thunder shot under the bar (**Gustavo** 3-0). David then replaced Nickos and enjoyed his last appearance for Polytechnic. Many thanks David for all your contribution to our club and best wishes back home. Few minutes later Borja replaced Carlos and started his show. He firstly tapped in Juan's cross (**Borja** 4-0) and later produced a fine footwork which could only be seen by Messi in his top form. He dribbled among 4 defenders and then chipped the ball over the keeper to the left top corner – WOW (**Borja** 5-0).

Polytechnic 9s – HSBC 7s 4-1 (2-0)

27.09.2014, Goals: Arash 4

Line-up:

Chris – Jose-Joe-Petr-Istvan, Andy-Nickos-Gustavo – Carlos, Arash, Juan

congratulation and big thanks to everyone involved in our 4-1 win. That was far the best performance I have seen over the last year. We worked hard and we worked as a team. The new players Dimitris (CB), Nicolas (CM) and Andy SJ (DCM) fit in very well and made a huge difference.

Special congratulation to Arash who scored 4 goals. Particularly the third one was a goal that is only seen in highlights from top leagues – a thunder from 20 yards to the right top corner!!!