



# POLYTECHNIC 8s

## 2015/16 SEASON SUMMARY

By Petr Holecek



Top Row from Left to Right: **Gustavo, Eoghan, Miltos, Petr, Celso, Abz, Arash**  
Bottom Row from Left to Right: **Dimitris, Istvan, Clement, Tin, Borja, Nikos**



# SEASON OVERVIEW

## OVERALL PERFORMANCE

Based on our 2014/15 season's good performance and due to several administrative changes in the Polytechnic Club our team was promoted and became Polytechnic 8s for the 2015/16 season. That meant we got to play in Division 4 South. Considering it was our first year in a higher league the final 5<sup>th</sup> place is a success.

The entire team deserves credit for their overall performance throughout the season. We didn't lose to any of the teams below us and managed to "steal" points from Civil Service 7s and West Wickham 6s, both very strong contenders for the League title.

## LEAGUE and 2 CUPS

	P	W	D	L	F	A
League	16	5	5	6	32	30
AFA Cup	2	1	0	1	5	5
League Cup	1	0	0	1	1	6
<b>TOTAL PLAYED</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>41</b>

We entered 3 competitions this season - League in Division 4, AFA cup and League cup. In total we played 19 games across 3 competitions - 6 won, 5 drew and 8 lost with a score 38:41. While we were knocked out of both cups in early rounds, we managed to grab the fifth place in the League, having been the team with the highest number of draws (5).

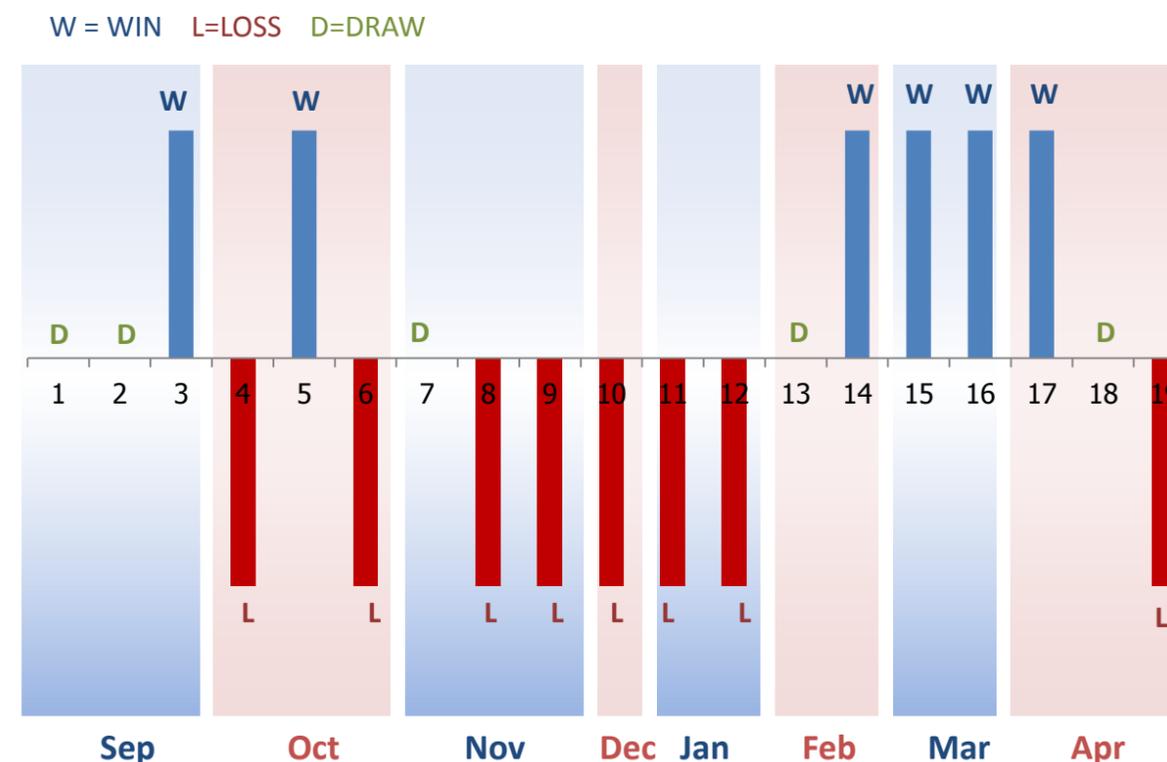


# SAL DIVISION 4

		P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
1	Alleyn Old Boys 6th	16	12	1	3	55	19	37
2	Civil Service 7th	16	11	2	3	54	20	35
3	West Wickham 6th	16	11	2	3	50	23	35
4	Old Wilsonians 7th	16	9	2	5	42	28	29
5	Polytechnic 8th	16	5	5	6	32	30	20
6	Actonians Association 8th	16	4	2	10	24	39	14
7	South Bank Cuaco 6th	16	4	2	10	26	58	14
8	Civil Service 8th	16	4	0	12	28	45	12
9	South Bank Cuaco 5th	16	4	0	12	17	66	12

Looking at the final number of points the League split into 2 halves. Polytechnic 8s were the best team in the lower half “winning” it by 6 points. We didn’t lose to any of the four teams below us.

On the other hand we have to admit the 4 top contenders were beyond our capabilities which is demonstrated by a 9 point gap between us and Old Wilsonians 7<sup>th</sup> on the fourth place. We only managed to earn 2 points against the top four teams. This is something we would definitely like to improve next season.



## Cruel Winter

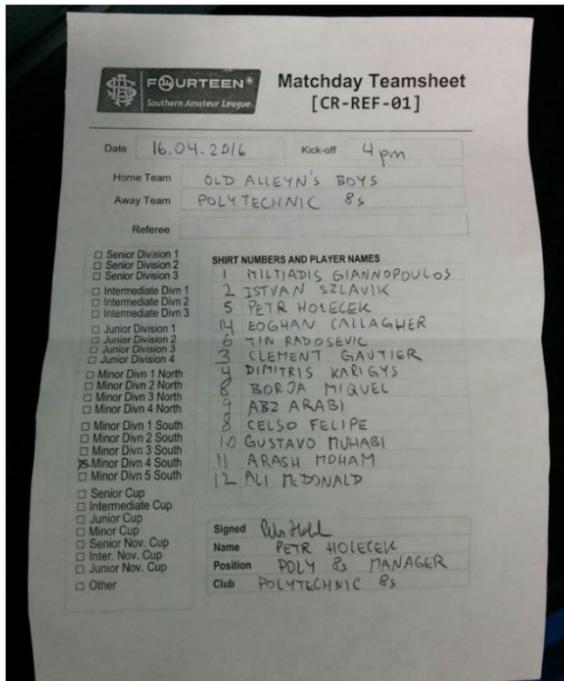
In a period between November and January we only managed to draw 1 game, while lost 5 games.

## Blossoming Spring

We significantly improved from February towards the end of the season when we won 4 games, drew 2 and lost only the last game to the League winners Alleyn Old boys away.



# COMMITTMENT



Player	Played	%
Miltiadis Giannopoulos	19	100%
Petr Holecek	19	100%
Nickos Drakatos	16	84%
Arash Moham	16	84%
Dimitris Karidys	15	79%
Celso Felipe	15	79%
Tin Radosevic	13	68%
Istvan Szlavik	11	58%
Borja Miquel	11	58%
Eoghan Gallagher	10	53%
Karl Assing	9	47%
Clement Gautier	9	47%
Abz Arabi	9	47%
Gustavo Muhabi	9	47%
Carlos Dager	8	42%

Player	Played	%
Steff Tarlowski (Poly 6s)	4	21%
Alan McDermott (Vets 1875)	3	16%
Marc McFarlane (Poly 3s)	3	16%
Joe Kelly	2	11%
Alistar Donald	2	11%
Diego Estoban	2	11%
Richard	2	11%
Matthew Gethings (Poly 9s)	2	11%
Shane Meskel (Poly 5s)	2	11%
Michal Galuska	2	11%
Jonny Swales	2	11%
Jack Davis (Poly 3s)	2	11%

Player	Played	%
Costas	1	5%
Steve (Vets 1875)	1	5%
Simon (Vets 1875)	1	5%
Ben (Poly 5s)	1	5%
Rich (Poly 5s)	1	5%
Ryan Hone (Poly 5s)	1	5%
Lee Brooks (Poly 9s)	1	5%
Anthony Frattura (Poly 9s)	1	5%
Anthony (Poly 3s)	1	5%
Prince (Poly 3s)	1	5%
Giorgiou (Poly 3s)	1	5%
Wesley	1	5%
Julian Groves (Poly 6s)	1	5%
Eric Williams (Poly 3s)	1	5%
Tom Goodwin (Poly 4s)	1	5%
Ciaran Weeks (Poly 4s)	1	5%
Max Rushden (Poly 4s)	1	5%
Stan (Poly 4s)	1	5%
Jan Tarlowski (Poly 6s)	1	5%
Bobby Brown (Poly 3s)	1	5%
Aaron	1	5%
Harry Ako (Poly 6s)	1	5%
Nick	1	5%
Dewayne Carrington (Poly6s)	1	5%
Tom Casswell (Poly 6s)	1	5%

Believe or not Polytechnic 8s used 52 different players this season!!!  
Only 10 players played more than 50% of all our games.



# GOALKEEPER

Games played	19 [100%]
Goals conceded	41 (2.1 / game)

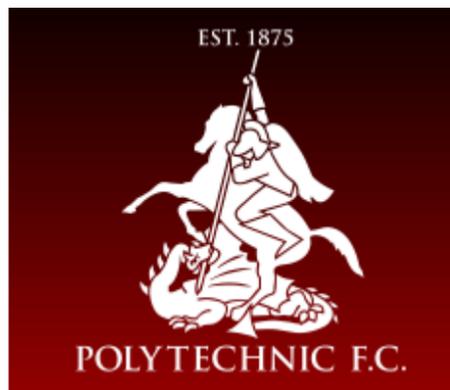
## Best Moments

- MOTM in an Away game against West Wickham 6s
- 2 penalties saved in home game against South bank 6s
- Saved penalty in an Away game against Civil Service 8s
- 3 clean sheets



Hover over the Video Frame to see How Miltos saved 2 penalties in 1 games. If you can't view the video click on [this link](#).

Polytechnic 8s' number #1 goalkeeper **Miltiadis** had an excellent season. Not only did he not miss a single game, his magnificent saves earned the team several crucial points. On top he saved all 3 penalties executed against us! (see the video above or [here](#) )



# DEFENSE - CENTRE BACKS

**Karl** had a good start to the season and his voice was heard when he commanded the back 4 as a centre back.

Unfortunately he stopped playing in the second half of the season due to injury and family commitments.

In total **Karl** played 9 games out of 19 (47%).



**Petr** captained and managed the team. He didn't miss a single game and scored a winning goal away against Civil Service 8s.

In total **Petr** played 19 games out of 19 (100%).



**Eoghan**, a solid centre back with great headers and brave challenges, re-joined Polytechnic 8s after spending a season playing for Polytechnic 9s.

And what a comeback it was! He was solid throughout the entire season. His performance in an away game against Civil Service 8s was one of the finest in the Polytechnic shirt.

In total **Eoghan** played 10 games out of 19 (53%).



## DEFENSE - FULL BACKS

**Istvan** played 11 games out of 19 (57%) and proved his stable form and experience built-up over the years in Polytechnic. He juggled his availability between football and family commitments but when he played he was always reliable and did a great job as a full back.

**Istvan** was also one of the few who was attending training sessions.



**Clément** joined the team in November and quickly adopted to English football. He was voted a Man of the Match in his very first game against Broomfield.

Unfortunately he moved back to France after the season and will be surely missed. In total **Clément** played 9 games out of 19 (47%).

After a year of break **Tin** re-joined the Polytechnic club and became a solid right back with attacking appetiser.

His brave penetration into the Civil Service defense finished by a goal earned us a precious point against a very strong opposition in our very first game of the season.

**Tin** would also attend nearly every training session. In total he played 13 games out of 19 (68%).



# MIDFIELD

The two Greek μαλάκας (=great midfielders) **Dimitris** and **Nikos** had another excellent season and orchestrated the middle of the park.



**Dimitris** played 15 games out of 19 (79%) and scored 1 goal in a home game against West Wickham. Unfortunately his well placed volley didn't help us to get points.

Dimitris was more involved in an attacking part and supplied our strikers with accurate passes. His fine ball skills, accurate passes and great football thinking were powerful weapons that constantly terrorised oppositions.

*Rumours say if he had put a little bit more effort in his running he would have caught an eye of the Greek national coach and perhaps helped his country to make it into the Euro 2016.*

*Oh wait - he says he's getting married in June so his wife-to-be wouldn't let him go anyway. We wish him on behalf of Polytechnic 8s and the entire Polytechnic Club all the best and hope it will not affect his football Saturdays!*



**Nikos** played 16 games out of 19 (84%) and scored 2 goals - his first ever Poly goal in a home game against Old Wilsonians (it didn't help to win the game though) and a beautiful long shot in a Cup game against Broomfield 4s (it didn't help us from being knocked out either).

His main role was to carry out defensive tasks and help the back four which he did tremendously throughout the season.

Nikos was strong in winning headers and fearlessly tackling opponents. Rumours say few South Bank players have itchy necks until now...

Here is how the media commented his life-changing achievement [scoring a goal]:

*Even though the result against Old Wilsonians was negative a milestone was reached! After 14 months, 22 games, 2,050 minutes, and around 88 shots on/off goal, Polytechnic 8s feisty, tireless and passionate midfielder Nikos, managed to finally score his first goal for Poly! Some brief calculations suggest that Nikos scores every 2,050 minutes on average (some difficult maths here)! His incredible performance has forced the club to honour him with the "If he can score, everyone can!" award!*

*When contacted Nikos commented "I am delighted to have scored! I believe I proved my parents proud and gave answers to all people who were questioning my shooting technique and abilities. I hope this goal becomes the stepping stone for young kids who look to become football stars in the future".*



# WINGS

Polytechnic 8s had 3 wingers who were running up and down the flanks.

**Celso** played 15 games out of 19 (79%) and scored 1 goal in a home game when we demolished South Bank 5s 7:1. He had a slow start but was excellent in the second half of the season. Celso used his versatility and helped out the center midfield or up front when needed.

*Rumours say the team suggested to buy him watches to ensure he gets to the games on time.*



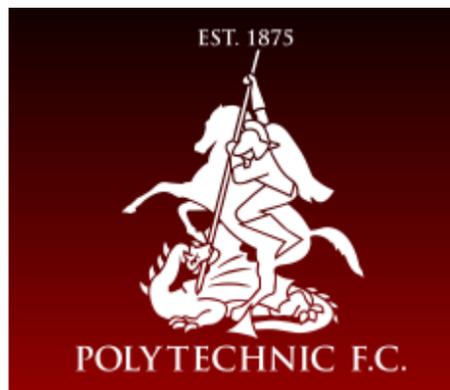
**Abz** played 9 games out of 19 (47%) and scored 3 goals becoming our second top scorer together with our two strikers Borja and Arash. He helped the team with a goal in a Cup game against Winchmore Hill to progress to the next round. Abz also showed a great commitment when we played away at South Bank. Not only did he arrive directly from the airport after a long flight he also scored a goal in our 4-0 victory. Abz scored his third goal in a home game against Civil Service 6s in a thrilling 2-2 draw.

*Conclusion: when Abz scores the team doesn't lose.*



**Gustavo** played 9 games out of 19 (47%) but couldn't find the target. Well, at least on the pitch. Off the pitch he got married!

*We wish him on behalf of Polytechnic 8s and the entire Polytechnic Club all the best and hope he will now also score on the pitch!*



# STRIKERS



Summer 2015 - **Arash** becomes the polytechnic 9s Player of the Year and the second Club top scorer with 23 goals.

**Cut!**

Summer 2016 - **Arash** only manages to score 3 goals over the 2015/16 season despite having had a decent season.

**Cut!**

Summer 2017 - **Arash** again becomes our top scorer?



Believe or not **Borja** has probably the best strike rate in the whole division. Although he played 11 games out of 19 (57%) he would typically only come on in the second half for last 15-20 minutes.

Nevertheless Borja showed great attitude and team support throughout the entire season and managed to score 3 great goals.

He demolished South Bank 5s with 2 goals in an away 4-0 victory and scored at Alleyn Old Boys ground in our last game of the season when the home team needed 3 points to win the title.



Although **Carlos** only played half of the season he became our top scorer with 4 goals.

The team truly missed his goals and fine Hollywood tricks with the ball.



# HIGHLIGHTS

## ■ HIGHEST VICTORIES

- 7-1 against South Bank 5s
- 4-0 against South Bank 5s

## ■ REMARKABLE PERFORMANCES

- Away game against South Bank 5s (4-0)
- Very tough game and great win away against Civil Service 8s (1-0)
- Borja's 2 goals against South Bank 5s (4-0)
- Eoghan's performance against Civil Service 8s (1-0)
- Miltos's double saved penalty against South Bank 6s (2-2)
- Tin's equaliser in our vey first game against Civil Service 7s (2-2)
- Miltos's saved penalty against Civil Service 8s (1-0)
- Petr's winning goal against Civil Service 8s (1-0)
- Abz's great performance against South Bank 5s (4-0)



# AWARDS

- **PLAYER OF THE YEAR: PETR HOLECEK**

**How his Team-fellows describe him:** The heart and mind of the team! Petr is like a good wine. Every year he comes back better, stronger and more determined than the last one. His passion, determination and leadership on and off the pitch has helped the team overcome any obstacles and dry periods to pick up their determination and fighting spirit. On the pitch Petr was instrumental in organising the team, managing the substitutes while sweeping anything and anyone coming down his way. An excellent year from the captain!

- **PLAYER OF THE YEAR RUNNER-UP: Nikos Drakatos**

Perfect on the pitch as well as in writing the match reports. Perfect timing with his wedding - right in between the seasons! The team and Polytechnic Club wish Nikos good luck and all the best in a new chapter of his life.

- **MANAGER'S PLAYER: Miltiadis Giannopoulos**

3 saved penalties and lots of magnificent saves that brought Polytechnic 8s much needed points. Great progress and improvement in comparison with his last (also very good) season.

- **MANAGER'S PLAYER RUNNER-UP: Eoghan Gallagher**

Replaced Karl in the centre of defense when he left due to family commitments. Always reliable, not afraid of challenging tackles and brave headers.



# AWARDS

- **MOST COMMITTED PLAYER: Petr Holecek, Miltiadis Giannopoulos**

Captain/Manager and the Keeper who both never missed a game. What a dream scenario for any team!

- **MOST IMPROVED PLAYER: Celso Felipe**

Celso significantly helped the team in the second part of the season. He played either on the flanks or in centre midfield. Skilful with the ball, direct in attacking and strong in defending.

- **BEST NEWCOMER: Clement Gautier**

Clement replaced Diego on the left back and immediately secured his position in the team. He could also play in left midfield or even up front.

- **TOP GOALSCORER: Carlos Dager**

4 goals for Polytechnic 8s although he only played half a season.



# AWARDS

- **GOAL OF THE SEASON: Petr Holecek, Nikos Drakatos**

In terms of importance: Petr's winning volley against Civil Service 8s. The 3 points got us out of the relegations zone and started our journey up in the table to the final 5<sup>th</sup> place.

In terms of beauty: Nikos's long shot against Broomfield in a cup when he curved the ball right to the top left corner.

- **NATHAN WATLING AWARD: Miltiadis Giannopoulos, Tin Radosevic**

*\*Nathan Watling Award aka The worst howler of the season is a tradition that has been around for quiet few years now as an honour to a great former Polytechnic player and manager Nathan Watling. Although Nathan left the club 4 years ago he still keeps sending in talented football players from the International Language School where he teaches English. Hence why there are many talented foreign footballers in the Polytechnic club!*

*It's fair to mention that before Nathan left he won this trophy 3 years in a row.*

*The prize is awarded for the worst howler that happened in our team over the past season. It can be anything comical that happened on or off the pitch. It is in no way meant to cause any offense but rather have a little laugh after the long season.*

The home game against South Bank 6s was slowly coming to an end when 7 minutes before the referee's last blow the unexpected happened. The visitors placed a desperate long ball in. Tin seemed to have been controlling the situation covering the ball and trying to win a free kick. However the pressure from the South Bank's striker brought him back to his own area, a step away from Miltos. The two Poly players failed to communicate effectively and Tin passed the ball back to Miltos, who initially went to pick it up but then realised it would have been a back pass. Having realising that he panicked and the ball bounced over his foot to end up at the back of his net. The game ended 2-2.



# FINAL WORDS FROM THE MANAGER



It has been an absolute privilege and honour to have played with all of you this season. I would like to thank everyone who was involved in our successful season and wish you all the best in upcoming season!

It has indeed been incredible seven months of football and every player deserves credit for their hard work, commitment and Polytechnic Club representation on and off the pitch.

Without every single of you there wouldn't be Polytechnic 8s team!