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Foreword

The second last game of the season against Brandbergen was full of excitement and controversy. The stripes lost 3-2 but had it not been for some of the most ridiculous refereeing this season they could well have secured their berth in division 7. Långholmen stormed into a two goal lead and looked to be cruising until the match official Mr Quadir gave a blatant offside goal. Brandbergen, chasing promotion, then scored two more. A penalty to Långholmen and the official could not decide where the penalty spot was, after much deliberation and discussion with the opposing keeper, Robbie after six minutes took the spot kick which was saved by the keeper. Then the corner that directly followed saw a 4 minute delay as the ref was involved in a row with Brandbergens trainer. Miraculously he forgot to add on these ten minutes and meant the stripes were denied the chance to equalise. This meant that all rested on the final game of the season.

FLEMINGSBERG 0 vs LÅNGHOLMEN FC 2

For the sake of a decent match of football, in a way it was a good thing that Långholmen had to win their final game of the season as their hosts had nothing to play for and a meaningless game of football would have been a big disappointment to those who had made the long journey out to Vissla. Instead we were treated to a fine football match that saw Långholmen contribute a never say die performance. The match was played on the finest surface any team would be proud of, this was indeed the Subuteo Astropitch of the 7th Division, and this seemed to bring out the best in Långholmens play. As early on as the first minute young superswede Calle had a fine snapshot saved by the stand in keeper and then Tobbe should of opened his account after a one on one with the goalie who was equal to the shot. Flemingsberg tried to break down the stripes but the defence held firm, homeside eventually had a clearcut chance but Mole parried the ball away and then Julian cleared off the line from the resulting rebound effort. Composed and in control Långholmen deservedly took the lead after Everest provided a defence splitting pass to Artoo, who read the situation brilliantly, who shrugged off his opponent to place the ball past the keeper and into the bottom hand corner of the net. A hungry Långholmen forged forward and should of doubled heir tally when Artoo forged his way past four players then shot past the keeper only to see his shot crash against the upright. Mole who had an otherwise quiet game was forced into action after an effort from 20 yards. Andy then showed some fine skill before playing a perfect ball into the box which O'Sullivan netted but was adjudged to have fouled the keeper. The same player tried a cheeky lob from all of 35 yards and was unlucky to see that attempt go inches past the top right hand corner. Julian Sewell took the corner which led up to the second goal, a superb inswinger was met eventually by captain Robbie Graham who bundled the ball over the line. Långholmen then looked rarely troubled and the only concern came when Steve was shown the yellow card after a second bookable offence, but even against ten men the young Flemingsberg side could not make the breakthrough. Indeed a sterling performance by the stripes in securing division 7 football next season. Nick Short the evergreen slightly balding manager of Långholmen said after the match "Great, looking forward to the pre season match in Dalarna in April".

Crowd: 23

Ref watch :tended to blow a bit too much for trivial matters and penalised more than a couple of perfectly decent challenges. Otherwise not too controversial.

The Match reporting team would like to congratulate all involved in making this an exciting season. To all players who have contributed this season and the occasional fans.

Cheers and all the best Scot James.

LÅNGHOLMEN 1 vs BK SANPLAN 3

As this match progressed Långholmen seemed to take control and it was no surprise when they opened the scoring after completely dominating the midfield. However 4 minutes of a major lapse in concentration cost them dearly. Before the kick things were looking positive for Långholmen as the match was switched to the synthetic pitch that lies next to the bumpy gravel they are accustomed to and kicking off with the sun at their backs the omens were good. Sandplan had other plans and had a good opening twenty minutes and continued to press their hosts back and created many chances without actually recording more than one shot on target, the closest of these after only two minutes when a goal mouth scramble resulted in Seb clearing off the goal line. It was round the twenty minute mark when a good through ball from Calle found Artoo who shot low and hard into the side netting. Julian Sewell then flighted in a lovely free kick which was met by Calles head but unfortunately ended in the arms of the goalie. Seb once again proved to be the first half hero with a superb

last man tackle to keep things all square at the break. Långholmen started the first half as they did the first and seemed to be out of sorts and in particular Mark O'Sullivan who was physically struggling, unusual as the big Irish man has had a good season so far. After the first quarter of an hour of the second period Långholmen were once again in charge and came close on a number of occasions with shots going over from O'Sullivan and Artoo. They broke their duck in the 70th minute after Sewell flighted in a fine cross which looked to have met the head of Andy, but the bearded substitute said he in fact made no contact so Sewell can claim this counter. What came in the following minutes was nothing short of unbelievable as Sandplan scored three goals in almost as many minutes, even more absurd as they only had four attempts on goal the whole of the second half. Two of the goals can be put down to a complete lack of concentration, the third a well taken volley from 20 yards. Shell shocked Långholmen tried to get back into this game but Bk held firm to claim a victory that gives them the chance of survival. Långholmen must now try and salvage their division status in the remaining two matches.

Crowd: around 11
Ref watch: The man in the middle was one of the better we have spectated this season, confident, firm and fair. Hallelujah.

All the best Scot James.

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Foreword. The match report department would first and foremost like to wish Joe all the best as he is heading back to the Emerald Isle after his stint in Stocktown. He will be sadly missed for his professional approach and fine playing qualities. Secondly we would like to commend the Estrella De Americas players and staff for such fair play and friendliness after last night's match. We look forward to reporting on future matches against them.

Långholmen 6 vs Estrella de Americas 2

The main contributing factor in this long awaited home win was not a superb volley from Mark O'Sullivan or an astounding hat trick from Calle, but the way in which the Stripes of Långholmen played the easy game of football which at worst was good to watch and at best like watching the Peles and Jarzinho's of the classic Brazil side of 1970. Okay maybe a slight over exaggeration but this from the man on the terraces point of view was a treat to spectate.

It all started so wrong for the home side as soon as the first 25 seconds, Mole was picking the ball out from his net, things indeed looked bleak for the homesters and this was further strengthened on the 19th minute mark when Estrellas number 9 cleverly played the ball to Gonzales who on the bounce fired into the roof of the net. This had a few people baffled as they really had no control of the match and in fact Mole had a very quiet game. Långholmen created several chances and Robbie, Artoo and Julian all had good clear cut chances but failed to capitalize. The stripes had all of the possession but faltered time and time again in front of goal, a scenario we have seen so many times this season.

Forty minutes had gone and Långholmen's persistence paid off when a lofted ball was not cleared by Estrellas defence and O'Sullivan executed an inch perfect volley into the postage stamp to make it 2-1 to the visitors. What then happened after the break was football at its very best. Chance after chance came Långholmen's way as Estrella were reduced to mere spectator status, flowing passes, simple one touch football and good off the ball running all made up the ingredients of a five goal second half feast. Goal number two was a free kick in by Sewell which was knocked in by Artoo, the same man added his second after the keeper only parried a low shot from the left.

The home side had complete control and saw young super Swede Calle score a superb hat trick, the pick of these a superb effort after a defence splitting pass by O'Sullivan. 6-2, a result that showed on the smiling faces of the victors in the pub after the game.

Manager Nick Short, obviously delighted by the outcome said "This result was put down to some basic simple football, something that has been missing for a large part of the season".

Mosquitos 0

Crowd: Almost as many as the mosquitos.

Ref watch: Oj Oj Oj Oj Oj. Mr Berbell should be ashamed of his performance as he handed out 3 or 4 ridiculous yellow cards for misdemeanours that were so petty it had to be seen to be believed. He was for large parts of the match immobile, this he said was down to cold he was suffering. He also stopped the match when a hooligan shouted abuse at him (he shall remain anonymous). Imagine that situation at Man U versus Liverpool. No this gentleman was solely there for his easy earned money.

All the best Scot James.

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Langholmen 1 v Cim Bom 4

Långholmen will rue the fact that numerous goalscoring opportunities were squandered in a match that was evenly contested contrary to what the scoreline suggests, had it not been for a couple of dubious decisions by the referee the outcome may have been somewhat different. The man in yellow gave the visitors a spotkick from a soft challenge in the box, a softer penalty will be spectated this season, he then turned down a stonewall penalty for the stripes in the second half.

As early as the fourth minute Artoo, who had his best game of the season so far, came close with a powerful effort just wide of the upright. Långholmen seemed to be a change side than the one who were beaten the previous week and took a deserved lead



when a Roberts corner was powerfully met by the head of the oncoming O`S ullivan to make it 1-0. This could be the game to get them back to winning ways. That optimism was shortlived however as only 3 minutes later the visitors levelled after some fine close control by number 7, who`s crossball was met by Seb who unfortunately put it past his own keeper. Långholmen repeatedly tried to breach the Cim Bom defence and had a glorious chance when Sewell was clean through, but connected poorly and his effort went wide. Both sides had chances to take the lead but good saves by both keepers ensured it remained all square until 40 minutes when an innocent challenge by Seb saw the referee point to the spot. The resulting spotkick was placed out of Moles reach to make it 2-1 to Cim Bom.

A strong finish to the second half seemed to spur Cim Bom on and they increased their lead in 54 mins after a great volley by no.9. Långholmen still pushed forward, but a series of bad finishing made the scoreline flattering for their opponents, with O`Sullivan, Tobbe and Roberts failing to convert great second half chances. A strong penalty claim was waved aside on 69 mins when Artoo was hauled down inside the box, but the referee was not in the slightest interested. Robbie Graham then saw a headed effort well held by the keeper before Cim Bom took advantage of lapse defending to make it four. All in all a bad day once again for the hosts who move perilously towards the bottom of the table. Manager Nick Short was not available to comment as he was at a Motor way cafe in Estonia buying a cabbage sandwich.

Crowd: 19

Refwatch: Oj Oj Oj

Mosquito watch: On entering the arena a distant loud buzzing could be heard, however this was not the sound of mossies but a speedway match taking place on the arena adjacent.

All the best Scottie.

Långholmen 5 vs. Srbija 5 Saturday 28th August, Gubbången Astro turf pitch (!)

The game kicked off. A monsoon rain fell on the Gubbången AstroTurf. The newly returned Mike Cribbin left the field after ten minutes with a thigh strain. And Serbia took the lead with a well placed drive. It was the worst possible start against a team that beat us 5-1 earlier in the season.

But it was undeserved. For all Serbia`s early possession, they did not enjoy the same time on the ball as in the first meeting, and Långholmen`s many counter-attacks contrived to open up a leaking defence. Rob Bushnell and Mike Manning, late call-ups to a squad riddled with injury and absentees, gamboled down the wings like young gazelles, while the midfield partnership forged by Robbie and Brad began to snuff out the Balkan threat.

As Tobbe and Artur up front started to link up well together, troubling the Serbian defenders every time they got the ball and allowing the whole Långholmen team to push forward, the ref decided to introduce himself to the game. The first of countless crazy decisions went our way and Robbie slotted home the resultant penalty in front of the admiring eyes of his better half, who was paralyzed with the tension of it all. 1-1.

The feeling going into the game was that we`d give it our best shot, but the memory of how these boys in blue tore us apart first time round was still fresh. This match would be a stepping stone on the road to recovery after a series of bad results, a chance to continue the recent improvement. But now we were playing well, knocking the ball around and letting the opposition know it wasn`t going to be quite so easy. Mark and Joe were commanding in the centre of defence and nothing was getting past Julian and Patrick in the full back positions. The Serbs looked worried and Långholmen grew in confidence.

Some hard graft in the centre resulted in Brad coming away with the ball. He swerved past a couple of midfielders, followed by a defender or two, before doing just enough to put the ball in the back of the net. The keeper got a touch but it wasn`t enough to deny the West Country master of one on one situations. We were in the lead. Bloody hell.

There was excitement on the wooden stand behind the Långholmen bench. Some players from league leaders Fruången had come along to watch and liked what they were seeing: their nearest rivals were really starting to struggle. Do these people have any lives, we wondered? Still, their support was welcome as they happily cheered every Långholmen move.

They nearly went through the stand for a short cut just before the break. It was a moment that will take some beating. Robbie, captain for the day and dominant in midfield, saw the ball coming his way close to the touchline and about forty yards from goal. The ball bounced as it reached him and he did the unthinkable. Gubbången became the temporary centre of the universe. The ball left the young Corkman`s boot, swerved in a delicious arc over the flailing arms of the stranded keeper and into the top left corner. It was Zidane, it was Van Basten, it was 3-1 to the Långholmen at half time.

The second half was only a couple of minutes old when Robbie took the piss altogether. The ball fell to him thirty yards out and, without a second thought, he caught it as crisply as is humanly possible and leathered it into the bottom right corner for his hat-trick. The keeper didn`t see until it had almost broken the net.

The huge effort that went into establishing the lead started to show. The ref angered everybody with a volume of erroneous decisions that may never be equalled in international football. Disbelief was expressed regularly in Serbian, English, Swedish and

Polish. Mark was so incensed that he came out with his second falsetto in as many weeks; the word *ĩ½Dooomareĩ½* rang out like Aled Jones. Scary? Yes.

Artur and Tobbe tried to hold the ball up but attacks broke down as the midfield ran out of puff and the action was all happening in front of Mole. Something had to give and a couple of quick goals put us in a precarious position. But right from the kick-off after the 4-3 goal, Robbie ran up the other end and knocked in his fourth. As you do, like.

Andy Startup, who was injured and just came along to watch, had togged out at half time, as we were out of subs. This commitment beyond the call of duty was typical of the day and was tested when the Silver Fox (Rob B) came to the line for a well-earned breather. This injection of semi-fresh legs led to some attacks forming on the right but the reprieve was short-lived. The Ref from Outer Space gave the Serbs a lifeline, awarding the second poxy penalty of the evening. It was thumped home unceremoniously.

More pressure led to a corner. Mole leapt highest and got a fist to the ball, deflecting it on to his own crossbar. It could have landed anywhere, but it dropped onto a Serbian head and the comeback was complete. The final whistle came as a relief. The sigh from the Frui½ngen boys was massive. They were delighted with our point.

Despite the initial disappointment at having let a 4-1 lead slip, this was a huge point. We earned it against the side we considered to be the best in the league and we did it in style. In a week when five out of six games in the division were drawn, ours was the most impressive. We came out of a difficult slump and gave a cracking side the fright of their lives. It was a pleasure just to be there.

Scotty was too busy getting 13 right on Stryktipset to make it to the game. Following in a noble tradition, here are the stats:

Crowd: 39

Ref watch: Oj oj oj oj (Five ojs is as bad as it gets)

Mosquito watch: None to be seen. They were off looking for Scotty's winnings.

/report submitted by our own Mr Paul O'Mahony in proxy for Scottie who was engaged with winning wads of Stryktips cash money.

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LANGHOLMEN 1 CIM BOM 4 **18th August 2004, 20.00**

Långholmen will rue the fact that numerous goalscoring opportunities were squandered in a match that was evenly contested contrary to what the scoreline suggests, had it not been for a couple of dubious decisions by the referee the outcome may have been somewhat different. The man in yellow gave the visitors a spotkick from a soft challenge in the box, a softer penalty will be expected this season, he then turned down a stonewall penalty for the stripes in the second half.

As early as the fourth minute Artoo, who had his best game of the season so far, came close with a powerful effort just wide of the upright. Långholmen seemed to be a change side than the one who were beaten the previous week and took a deserved lead when a Roberts corner was powerfully met by the head of the oncoming O'Sullivan to make it 1-0. This could be the game to get them back to winning ways. That optimism was shortlived however as only 3 minutes later the visitors levelled after some fine close control by number 7, whose crossball was met by Seb who unfortunately put it past his own keeper. Långholmen repeatedly tried to breach the Cim Bom defence and had a glorious chance when Sewell was clean through, but connected poorly and his effort went wide. Both sides had chances to take the lead but good saves by both keepers ensured it remained all square until 40 minutes when an innocent challenge by Seb saw the referee point to the spot. The resulting spotkick was placed out of Moles reach to make it 2-1 to Cim Bom.

A strong finish to the second half seemed to spur Cim Bom on and they increased their lead in 54 mins after a great volley by no.9. Långholmen still pushed forward, but a series of bad finishing made the scoreline flattering for their opponents, with O'Sullivan, Tobbe and Roberts failing to convert great second half chances. A strong penalty claim was waved aside on 69 mins when Artoo was hauled down inside the box, but the referee was not in the slightest interested. Robbie Graham then saw a headed effort well held by the keeper before Cim Bom took advantage of lapse defending to make it four. All in all a bad day once again for the hosts who move perilously towards the bottom of the table. Manager Nick Short was not available to comment as he was at a Motor way cafe in Estonia buying a cabbage sandwich.

Crowd: 19

Refwatch: Oj Oj Oj

Mosquito watch: On entering the arena a distant loud buzzing could be heard, however this was not the sound of mosses but a speedway match taking place on the arena adjacent.

All the best **Scottie**.

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Foreword.

It has been brought to my attention that our match reports are being read out with the realms of Scandinavia, so I would like to greet all our worldwide readers especially Gavin in Budapest.

good luck to Morty who will be spending the next couple of months in the good old U.S of A.

FRUIË½NGEN 3 LIË½NGHOLMEN 0
11th august 2004, 20.00 - MiË½larhiË½jdens IP

The season finally got going again after the summer break and LiË½ngholmen continued where they left off in June, a defeat by FruiË½ngen.

From the outset things looked quite promising for the visitors, who fielded a much stronger side than the one that contested the previous match. After six minutes of play LiË½ngholmen created their first chance, a long ball catching out the defence was escorted past by the centre half and from the ensuing corner Seb tried a spectacular overhead kick which failed miserably. The hosts then settled in to their game and appeared the hungrier of the two sides and almost broke the deadlock with a finely placed shot which Mole held confidently. Mark O` Sullivan had a chance on 18 mins when he failed to connect with a corner and his header was smothered by the keeper. At this point in the game LiË½ngholmen had a bulk of the possession but lacked any real sting in the opposing goal area. Artoo was unlucky to see a strong shot parried by the keeper in what was to prove to be the last chance in the opening half for LiË½ngholmen. FruiË½ngen seemed to step up a gear and unlike their counterparts were now chasing every loose ball and this was a contributing factor in their opening goal when Peter Johnsson showed tremendous strength to shake off two defenders and slam the ball past a helpless Mole, the same player could of doubled his tally sixty seconds later but this time Mole was equal to the shot.

Nick Short, in his last game before his round the world cycling trip, emphasised to his players at the break that they must run off the ball more, this however fell on deaf ears in the second half. Only five minutes after the restart and a sweeping ball from a corner was met by number 10 who executed an unstoppable shot past the big Scottish keeper 2-0. By this point LiË½ngholmen were only spectating as the much fitter and younger FruiË½ngen side were dictating play. At this point number 17 and number 10 for the hosts were using there Chris Waddle and Frank Mac Avennie mullet hair styles to great affect and had it not been for Mole they would surely of increased their sides tally by a few more. Indeed goal number 3 was added in the 78th minute by number 17 after some unsure defending. LiË½ngholmen then had their best effort of the half when OiË½ Sullivan played an intelligent pass to Tobbe and was unfortunate to see his shot tipped over by the keeper. The match ended uncerimoniously for the visitors who received three yellow cards on an evening they will quickly forget. Coach Short was keen to point out that lack of fitness was the main contributor to this defeat, but hopefully stand in coach Paul can turn things round for the next match.

Cheers for now **Scot James**

Crowd 43

Mosquitos and Wasps 264,017

Ref watch: a little bit unsure at some stages but nothing too controversial to handle.

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The game kicked off. A monsoon rain fell on the GubbiË½ngen AstroTurf. The newly returned Mike Cribbin left the field after ten minutes with a thigh strain. And Serbia took the lead with a well placed drive. It was the worst possible start against a team that beat us 5-1 earlier in the season.

But it was undeserved. For all SerbiaiË½s early possession, they did not enjoy the same time on the ball as in the first meeting, and LiË½ngholmeniË½s many counter-attacks contrived to open up a leaking defence. Rob Bushnell and Mike Manning, late call-ups to a squad riddled with injury and absentees, gamboled down the wings like young gazelles, while the midfield partnership forged by Robbie and Brad began to snuff out the Balkan threat.

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Mosquito watch: None to be seen. They were off looking for Scotty's winnings.

Lič's NGHOLMEN 1 v FRUič's NGEN 5 11th June 2004, 20.15

The fact that the mid season break is upon us is somewhat of a blessing in disguise for Lič's ngholmen as they were forced to play for the second match running without several first team players and fielded at least two players who were no where near full fitness. The teams plight was emphasised by the fact that manager Nick Short was still calling players 25 minutes after the game had kicked off.

This "home" match was played at Stora Essingen after a schedule change, although the pitch cannot be used as an excuse for this defeat.

A timid game in the opening ten minutes was followed by a chance for the home team, a looping cross that eluded all but the keeper who then punted the ball the length of the field to Mole who collided with the oncoming attacker, this was a harsh challenge which should of seen the Fruič's ngen player punished. The home side could of been one down shortly after when Fruič's ngen had a break away, but were denied by a perfectly timed challenge by Mark Oič's Sullivan, who was playing in severe pain due to an injury he has been unable to shrug off. Mole was as alert as usual and pulled off three great saves in the space of 2 minutes to keep things even. The same player was involved in the lead up to the first goal, when a kick out to his own defender resulted in the ball being miskicked to the opposing centre forward who buried the ball without hesitation. On 35mins The stripes had a strong claim for a penalty turned down after some rough play in the box and moments later the homeside were unlucky not to equalize when a bouncing shot was cleared off the line.

Four minutes before the interval and the second goal .A combination of poor defending letting the Fruič's ngen winger to float in an inch perfect cross to his centre who unleashed an unstoppable volley passed the helpless Mole. With but a minute remaining Andy played a lovely pass to Johnny who made no mistake in shaking off his marker and placing it beyond the keeper to narrow the deficit.

Lič's ngholmen continued to push forward in the opening stages of the second half and both Artoo and Johnny came close on a couple of occasions. The game swung from end to end with the makeshift Lič's ngholmen side giving as good as they got until the 69th minute, when what seemed to be a perfectly good challenge by Mole on the lanky centre was deemed a foul and a penalty was awarded and the same player converted to make it three.

The stripes battled away but could not penetrate the Fruič's ngen defence, but were given an opportunity to increase their tally when Pete Simpson saw his free kick effort go inches past. Ten minutes remaining and a lapse in the Lič's ngholmen defence saw another fine goal from the visitors and killed off the tie. Lič's ngholmen had one more attempt on goal when a fine ball found Brad in the area , he rose like a salmon above the defence only to see his attempt tipped over.

A dubious assistant line official wrongly awarded the visitors a throw in which lead to

their fifth and final goal.

A game that saw the homeside depleted and tired and a result that somewhat flattered Frii½ngen,the stripes play this team again when the seson re-opens and with a full squad I am sure the outcome will be very different.

On behalf of the Match reporting department we wish Morty a speedy recovery after he was rushed to hospital hours before the match.

Ref watch: a fairly decent performance by the man in yellow,who at times seemed disinterested.

Crowd: 19

/Scottie.
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CIM BOM 1 v Li½NGHOLMEM FC 2 **13th June 2004, 16.00**

On paper this looked to be a tough match for Li½ngholmen on the back of two straight defeats and playing an away match with only a handfull of first team regulars present.Manager Nick Short and his makeshift team can hold their heads up high after a much needed and deserved victory.

Straight from the first kick the visitors stood their ground and refused to let in Cim Bom who looked stronger physically.The home side saw a long range effort turned round the post by Mole on 6 mins and then squandered a fine opportunity two minutes later.Pete Skinner on the right side gave as good as he got in the opening exchanges and played a nice through ball to Robbie who found Johnny at the back post whos effort was blocked by the keeper.The first half swung from end to end and some astute defending by Li½ngholmen added somewhat to the home sides frustration.Indeed the Cim Bom centre forward was cursing himself after a powerful volley was well saved by Mole who as usual had a fine game.Nick got the boys together at the break and his pep talk seemed to work wonders as directly after kick off Brad had a fantastisc run in on goal curtailed by a clumsy challenge and as he was bundled down the referee pointed to the spot without too much protest from the homeside.The penalty that followed was a well placed kick by Robbie Graham to give the black and white stripes the lead.

The Li½ngholmen team continued to soak up the pressure as Cim Bom became more and more desperate for an equaliser and a fine breakaway led to a free kick just outside the box,which led to goal number two.Pete Simpson,who put in a great workmanlike performance,rattled his effort against the crossbar and it was Brad who towered above the defenders to connect and increase the visitors lead.Almost immediately Cim Bom had an shot slide under Mole and into the side netting.Now the hosts were throwing all they had at Li½ngholmen and bundled the ball into the net after a foul on James in goal a free kick was awarded.On 80 mins the referee awarded a soft penalty and this was converted by Cim Boms captain and the same player could of saved the day for his side when from six yards he blasted over with the goal gaping.The match saw one of it's few dark moments when a skirmish on the half way line saw half a dozen players involved and resulted in Robbie being redcarded along with his adversary.

The stripes held on to there one goal margin and now can look forward to their last match before the break off.

Crowd 43

Ref watch: his game was full of inconsistency and sending off the two players at the end when a telling off would of sufficed.

Scottie.
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An Apology

The Match Report department would like to Apologise for comments made regarding a player involved in the match against Hi½gdalen ,these remarks were not meant as a direct personnel insult but merely as an observation.We wish the young gentleman every success in his career in the future.

Li½NGHOLMEN 1 vs SRBIJA 5 **2nd June 2004, 20.15**

On paper this match looked to be a classic,Li½ngholmen hungry for revenge after losing to Hi½gdalen and Srbija who before the match had scored 29 goals.It would be interesting to see how the game would have turned out if Li½ngholmen had taken home advantage and played on the blaze pitch instead of on the synthetic surface.

The match kicked off in glorious sunlight and saw the Serbians take the initiative immediately when they forced 2 corners in the first 3 minutes.The home side then weathered the early storm to play some composed football and take control of the game and came close when Tom had a fine shot saved from close in.Only moments later Artoo recieved a lovely through ball from a midfield collaboration,straightened himself and shot low and hard just passed the post.Mark O` Sullivan shouting instructions loudly from the middle seemed to be spurring the stripes on,only to be hit by a sucker punch when Srbija No.9 turned the defence one way then another to place a unstoppable shot past Mole to open the scoring.This had clearly provided the kick start they needed and came close when there tricky number 8 played a lovely weighted pass to the equally tricky number 10 and his shot went inches wide.Chance after chance fell to the away team as the Li½ngholmen defence were finding it tough to contain the Serbian forwards.Mole almost gifted them with a goal when he dribbled the ball Grobelaar style from his own penalty area and was caught by Vladi who` s shot fortunately went wide.Goal scoring opportunities were far and few between for the home side and saw the loss of Mark on 39 minutes due to injury adding to there wows.The half time whistle went and Li½ngholmen knowing that they faced an uphill struggle were not to disheartened with their display.

The second half would prove to be hard for the Långholmen team as the Serbians started to show their technical superiority. On 49 mins Sebb cleared from Nenets attempt and then Jim had an attempt to clear from danger just whistle past his own goalkeeper and thankfully for him past the post; apparently he had forgotten the sides had changed ends after the break. The second goal came after sustained pressure from the Serbs and in particular no 10 and 8, who had an exceptional game, Julian failed to clear and the ball was quickly snapped up by no 27 who smashed the ball home. Långholmen were at this stage not at the races and can thank Mole for the goal tally not being twice as much. Nenat then added the 3rd after a flighted free kick found his right foot and he volleyed into the top left hand corner, at this stage it looked like it could be an embarrassing evening for the hosts. On 65 mins Brad who it must be said had his best game of the season so far rattled the upright in a rare breakaway. Goal number four came when Vladi, who was the evenings star performer, raced past the defence to finish powerfully. Långholmen answered immediately when Artoo pulled one back, but this was only a temporary measure as the Serbs and Vladi rounded off the evening in the dying stages.

This match was lost against a well organised side who will surely advance to division six next year. For Långholmen we look forward to a much improved performance next time and with a fully fit squad who knows what lies ahead.

Ref watch:

the man in the middle had an excellent match with flowing football and only one yellow card.

Crowd 38

Mosquito watch:

this was a veritable Maracana of mosquitos (bring repellent next time).

/Scottie

HOGDALEN 1 vs LÅNGHOLMEN 0

26th May 2004, 20.15

Hagsåtra

A combination of sloppy defending and luck contributed to the only goal that decided this somewhat timid affair. The hosts playing with the breeze and sun behind them opened the stronger of the teams and in fact remained the stronger throughout the match. Långholmen, after last weeks heroics just were not gelling and can thank Howe in goal

for making the scoreline as narrow as it looks on paper.

A sweeping free kick in the eighth minute eluded all but Howe who got down well to parry the shot which was cleared by Everest, the following minutes were witness to some untidy football by the visitors and were nearly punished when Svensson (aren't they all) found himself clear on goal only to blaze a shot past the upright.

On the seventeen minute mark Brad slipped past his marker and had a powerful shot well saved by Svensson in goal. The same player was yellow carded for a clumsy challenge on the goalkeeper two minutes later. Högdaalen continued to press but all attacks proved fruitless. Pete Simpson then took a free kick which grazed the crossbar. The home side then had a string of chances which in the space of five minutes saw Howe pull off three fantastic saves. Mark O'Sullivan who was not as lively in the opening challenges as normal, connected with a free kick only to see his ball clutched from the goal line by Svensson, appeals that the ball had crossed the line were turned down by the referee. The last chance of the first half again fell to the hosts, a nice weighted ball caught out the defence and Svenssons effort was this time denied by the upright.

A hungrier Långholmen came out on top for the first ten minutes, when Artoo and O'Sullivan both came close things started to look brighter then disaster; a foul was committed by Seb on the flank and a rather timid free kick found its way through the defence and took a wicked deflection off the oncoming attacker Stefan Applebergs shin and nestled in the corner of the net.

This should of been the wake up call Långholmen needed but failed to really create any clear chances until the 83rd minute

Morty eased past two defenders before releasing an inch perfect cross to Andy at the back post who could only look on despairingly as his header went inches wide. A yellow card was then distributed to Högdaalens number 4 who it must be said is one of the most facially challenged young men to grace the blaze, so much so that he made Peter Beardsley look like Brad

Pitt. A sigh of relief went up in the home team camp as the referee brought things to a close and Långholmen left feeling dispondent after a poor performance. A lack of communication in the team must be addressed by the coaching staff.

On the whole they will have no complaints in losing this one as the better team won and in the same breath Högdaalen will probably be looking at a mid table finish when all is said and done.

Ref watch

If blowing your whistle was introduced at the next Olympics this gentleman would be a household name.

He continually prevented any real flow in the game by his continual peeping at any challenge for balls above knee height.

Crowd 14 (plus numerous loud choo choo trains)

cheers for now Scottie.

Foreword

The beautiful game that we all love so much was brought into disrepute by two or three mindless thugs intent not on playing a competitive game of football, but intent on destroying one. These people were not hooligan supporters but players from Fittja Drivkraft Football team and should not be allowed to grace Division 7 again or any other league for that matter. When two players attack others unprovoked and then are sent off and continue to act in a threatening manner then we must ask, where is the fun in this pastime we enjoy so heartily.

Three things I would like to comment:

Firstly: I certainly would expect the officials present to take the correct and proper actions in order to prevent other teams having to be subjected to such provocation.

Secondly: That the young referee rightly sent off the two players in question and was also subject to various threats during and after the match. How is football expected to attract people to refereeing when they receive such treatment, not good for the future of the game.

Thirdly: I would like to commend Långholmen on their ability to stand back from such threats and the temptation to retaliate. Well done lads.

Långholmen 4 vs Fittja Drivkraft 2 20th May 2004, 15.00

This was a game that was by far the most controversial so far this season and a game in which Långholmen in periods went to sleep but still came away with a victory, the positives taken from that is that we still have to see the great football that they are capable of.

The opening exchanges of the match were won by the home side who as early as the 3rd minute came close when O'Sullivan's long range effort just went wide of the upright. Fittja's tactics were clearly focused on torment and provocation as a few hefty challenges were starting to go in some unseen by the referee. Dave Roberts had a glorious chance to open the scoring when Artoo played a ball that eluded the offside trap, but he failed to connect properly and his shot went past.

Artoo who was making his presence felt came close also with a long range attempt. Fittja then forced three corners in a row without causing too much concern for the home team's defence. The home side after opening so promisingly appeared to step down a gear and let their opponents play football and in doing so, strangely, scored against the run of play, as a long ball found Artoo who industriously made his way into the box beating two players and was fouled, the referee had no hesitation in pointing to the spot which was executed hard and low by Robbie Graham. On 30 mins Fittja had a fine chance to equalise

from a free kick on the edge of the box but the wall held firm and the danger was cleared. Four minutes later and Långholmen increased their lead after some fine interplay between Mark O'Sullivan and Artoo who did not hesitate in slotting past the oncoming keeper. The minutes following saw some scrappy football and harsh challenges especially from the visitors who were reduced to ten men when one of these players lashed out at Morty McCarthy totally unprovoked and hit him with a clenched fist square on the jaw, fortunately the referee saw the incident and sent the player in question off. Strangely this spurred on the visitors to score with a free header just on the stroke of half time after some poor defending.

The second half kicked off and continued in the same style as the first finished with the Fittja pushing forward and they were rewarded after just one minute when number seven forced his way past Kevin Everest and scored with a rebound after Mole made the initial save. Almost immediately Långholmen pressed forward and were denied after Fittja's goalkeeper held well after a goal mouth scramble. Tempers were beginning to flare from the visitors' camp and this was unfortunate as this was destroying their rhythm and actually proving a hindrance to the two or three really good players they had.

A fine piece of play by young Graham on the right forced an opening and the ensuing cross fell to O'Sullivan who from 10 yards blasted an unstoppable shot past the keeper to make it 3-2. Chances were then few and far between as Långholmen stopped playing football and as we have seen before sat deep, something they must put a stop to as a better equipped opposing team would take advantage. Ten minutes remaining and another piece of madness by the visitors as their midfielder ran the whole breadth of the pitch to attempt to strangle Roberts after the young scouser had dispossessed him of the ball, an act that ended his team's chances of taking anything from the match, as Roberts finished off the day scoring two minutes later.

A tough game played in circumstances where Långholmen were the winners but sadly fo