



Forza La Stripes!

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LÅNGHOLMEN 3 v 0 SORUNDA

Saturday 30th september, 2006. Gubbängen IP, 14.00 kick off.

SHORT AND SWEET AS STRIPES ROMP HOME.

Nick Short steered his team to a fine victory at Gubbängen on Saturday afternoon and was a relieved man after the match saying how good it was to get back on track after the previous two or three outings. A very steady performance at the back by the Stripes ensured Sorunda found no way through. Mike Cribbin came in to bolster the home team as did Johnny Dub and Mark O'Sullivan, the latter starting on the bench.

It was apparent that this was going to be a no nonsense performance by Långholmen and they completely dominated proceedings in the first half. Good possession football was the name of the game and on the fifteen minute mark the homesters had a penalty appeal turned down when man of the match Artoo was pulled down, referee Svennson let play flow as the ball fell to Derri Thomas who steered it past the keeper to open the Stripes account.

Goalkeeper Mole had a very easy time between the sticks in the opening half as the visitors failed to muster an attempt on goal. Johnny Dub who was called into the side put in a sterling performance and should of got on the score sheet on 36 minutes but the scotsman took a touch too many and the ball was cleared by Andersson.

With five minutes remaining of the half a sublime piece of football saw Dave Molina thread a great ball to Artoo who played a superb pass with the deftest of touches to Thomas who made no mistake in rattling home number two.

Sorunda came out with a better outlook on the game in the second half and had it not been for two magnificent finger tip saves by Mole things could have been much different. Anderssons effort being thwarted on 65 minutes after some fine play down the flank and then a man with the same name seeing his effort also saved by the finely manicured nails of the keeper.

Johnny Dub and Chris Latham, who came on as a substitute, both had glorious chances to seal the match but both failed miserably inside the box.

The match was put beyond doubt by Mark O'Sullivan who was perfectly positioned in the box to head high into the net after some skillfull close control and pinpoint cross by Polish striker Artoo. This result keeps the Stripes' slim hopes of promotion very much alive.

All round a good day for the men in black and white and their small band of fans.

Crowd:19 including four kids and a dog.

Refwatch: A very nice haircut and shorts pulled up very high.

All the best/Scot James

LÅNGHOLMEN 2 v 1 ANDINO

Saturday 23rd september, 2006. Gubbängen IP, 16.00 kick off.

STRIPES SCRAPE THROUGH TO SEAL POINTS.



A wonder strike by forward Mark Evans clinched the points for Långholmen at Gubbängen, Nick Short commented after the game in his after match press conference that his team never make it easy for supporters to watch , but nonetheless was relieved to have all three points in the bag and singled out man of the match Evans for his hard working display. It was very much a huff and puff performance once again from the home team and had it not been for a marvellous save from substitute keeper Mole it could have been all so different.



The game, watched by the smallest home crowd of the year, opened brightly enough with Mc Carthy going close with a header on the second minute Mark. Set piece after set piece and the Stripes still could not take advantage of the strong wind they had behind them. In fact Andino had a smoother passing game ,they just couldn't make anything happen in the last third of the pitch.

Dave Molina who has been a bit anonymous this season celebrated a finely taken goal on 26 minutes when Evans supplied a neat ball after a terrible clearance by goalkeeper Lopez, the big Colombian deftly chipping the ball

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in from a tight angle just inside the box. It should have been two shortly after, McCarthy this time denied by the bar.

From then on the Stripes lost concentration and Andino forced keeper Kelly into a couple of fine saves. As the first half was drawing to a close Lopez got the ball from Gonzales after a mix up between two stripes defenders ,the chunky striker eased his shot into the bottom corner for the equaliser.



The Stripes then made a few minor adjustments in the set up and also introduced goalkeeping/school teaching legend Mole to the field of play. Had it not been for the big Scotsmans excellent tip over from Lopez

the stripes could of lost out. The chubby forward collected the ball from a throw in and on the bounce swivelled and sent in a great overhead kick which the big keeper rose like a salmon to turn over for a corner.

The game was decided however by a piece of magic by Evans ,in his first season at the club,when he latched on to a ball twenty yards out and drilled in an unstoppable shot behind the tiny goalkeeping frame of Lofty Lopez. Three points and a decent end to the season is most definitely on the cards.

Crowd: Not too many

Ref watch: A good game by the referee,took charge very well and made more than one sensible decision.



All the best Scot James.

STRIPES RESERVES 2 v 0 FARSTA

Gubbängen IP.
Wednesday 14th september 2006, 20.00 kick off.

Långholmens second string had a potentially tricky fixture on wednesday night against Farsta who decided to play there youth team. When a team of energetic teenagers come up against a team mainly consisting of thirty somethings many would expect youth to be victorious, the Stripes however ripped up the script and put on a fine display for manager Chris"Middlesex"Latham. The home team had a few division six regulars in their line up including Mark Evans and Barrie Radford. The latter eager to make up for a dismal showing the previous night. He made amends with a well taken goal in the second half.

Farsta had very little to take to the Stripes in the first half and went into the break after an own goal by one of their young defenders. Some fine interplay between Evans and flying dutchman Joost,who had a fantastic match,saw the ball come to the young player who could only turn the ball past his own keeper.

The game was marred by the referees whistle.The Joey rAmOnE look alike constantly stopping the match for the slightest of challenges on the Farsta players.The home team weathered the constant interruptions and increased their lead when Radford latched onto a loose ball and coolly lobbed the keeper into the gaping net for 2-0.

Man of the match Brian Kelly then came into his own as he produced catlike save after catlike save to keep his team in the lead,the pick of these was a one on one with the very tricky number ten when he got down and tipped the ball round for a corner.

Manager Chris Latham was once again delighted with his teams attitude and performance in what has been a great season for the Reserves.First team manager Nick Short should perhaps take a good look at some of the performances that certain players are putting in for the second team.

Crowd: 3 (including the managers bird)

All the best Scot James

LÅNGHOLMEN 0 v TUNDELSTA 4

Gubbängen IP.
Tuesday 13th september 2006.

STRIPES 0 v TUNDELSTA 4

MISSED CHANCES COST STRIPES DEAR.

Seldom have a team played so well and dominated for almost an hour and still lose by four goals.This was the case at Gubbängen tonight as the home side were given a lesson in clinical finishing.

This game was the second meeting between the sides this season as the first match between the clubs was scratched due to refereeing discrepancies.Långholmen looked to be continuing there good run of late and played some neat passing football with the back four coping well with the occasional attacking foray by the away side

Polish star Artur Czapinski won his side a penalty on 27 minutes when he was upended inside the penalty



area,upstepped defender Barrie Radford to take the kick which he placed well wide of the keeper and unfortunately the upright.This however did not discourage Långholmen as time and time again they pushed forward with both Nick Phillips and Marc Evans coming close .The small but vocal home support thought Karol Usher had opened the Stripes account when an excellent piece of flowing play resulted in a great effort from the hard working Irish man, his effort rebounding off the inside of the post and into the path of Tungalsta defender Svensson.Svensson then had two great efforts on goal the first brilliantly saved by Mole and the second against the post.

The second half was a real Jekyll and Hyde story for the home team as a combination of dreadful defending and the inside of the post ensuring the Tungalsta boys would leave with all three points.Once again some great play saw Usher deftly chip past the keeper only to see the ball come off thepost,from the clearance Tungalsta went on the attack which saw a clumsy challenge on Svensson,a penalty was awarded and the same man stepped up to convert the kick.

From then on Tungalsta gave the Stripes a lesson in goalscoring with Mohican Svensson scoring twice more, the third of these being a very well taken goal from a good distance.This just wasn't Långholmens or Barry Radfords night as the big defender/hairdresser gave away a couple of sloppy balls that led to goals.New boy Don had a good game as did the industrious Nick Phillips.Nick Short commented that no one could accuse his team of not playing well,but on the other hand Tungalsta did put away all there second half chances.That I am afraid is how games are won.

Ref watch: A half decent performance in a game with no sending offs.

Crowd:15 at most 5 at the end.

Mosquito watch:There was a fiar crew down there tonight

All the best Scot James.

LÅNGHOLMEN 4 v REYMERSHOLM 2

Pre season Friendly.Tantogården.

Saturday 1st April, 2006.

STRIPES MADE TO FIGHT BY KIDS.

The beginning of this game could have been a joke normally played out on the very day reserved for a bit of lighthearted tomfoolery. First the game was switched from international bandy stadium Zinkensdamm to nearby pitch Tanto at the last minute and then Långholmen stalwart O'Sullivan was seen coaching the opposing side from the touchline. The big quietly spoken Irishman is actually involved with the development of the Reymers youth team and had arranged this fixture to test the Stripes before the season kicks off in earnest.

The last minute venue change ensured the match reporting team with new star photographer Richie in tow missed the opening quarter and just as they arrived saw the unfortunate young defender of Reymers turn the ball past his keeper to make it one nil to Långholmen.The young lions of Reymers were not willing to give up and were more than a match for a team who will play 6 divisions off Allsvenskan next year. Time and time again Johan Svensson and Oscar Svensson proved to be a handful for defenders who were more than double their age. Big Scottish keeper Mole had to be in fine form to stop a couple of snapshot attempts by Oscar and then by Alex Svensson. Långholmen had a handful of new boys in their line up and with a few training sessions under their belt should acquit themselves very well in the team this year, one of the new faces Carl put in a good performance and got on the score sheet on 36 minutes when a freekick was played onto the cross bar and the Irishman looped a shot from 35 yards over the helpless Svensson in goal to take the Stripes into a 2-1 lead at half time.

Coach O'Sullivan or "Pappa" as the young team call him must have been proud by his teams never say die attitude in the second half and with a bit of luck could of quite easily got a draw from this game .It was the Stripes however ,who increased their lead on the fifty minute mark, when yet again another set piece provided Carl with a goal when he slotted home from close range. Manager Nick Short was forced to bring in new keeper Paul at half time as big sissy goal keeper Mole had broken a nail just before the interval and the young chap had a couple of noticeable saves from the Svensson boys. His luck ran out on 69 minutes when another Svensson brother lashed the ball home from the edge of the box and made it 3-2.The division six team looked jaded in the last twenty minutes but were given the chance to increase their lead when they were awarded a penalty. Up stepped Barry Radford who claims not to have missed a penalty in fifty attempts and placed his shot straight at the keeper. The referee Mr Carlsson had spotted an infringement off the ball and ordered a retake and also sent off young Svensson for dissent, Radford made no mistake with the second attempt.

Manger for Långholmen Nick Short said at the official pub press conference after the match that he was pleased with his teams performance. Mark O'Sullivan did not have time to give a comment as he had to get to the sweetie shop with some hungry young lads.

Crowd:39

Ref Watch: The man in the middle had a very good game, he kept up with play well and made very few mistakes.

All the best Scot James .

Stockholm Cup

11/02/06

Enskede Gård IP - Arctic Circle stadium

16.00 kick off

LÅNGHOLMEN 2 vs HÖGALIDS 2

Högalids win 5-4 on pens.

Penalty drama ends cup dream.

The talking point of this match was not the fact that the division seven side knocked out last years champions, but a wonder goal by 1980's tennis star look-alike Kevin Everest-Lloyd. Disguised in flowing locks and a fashionable headband the big Englishman ran all of 60 yards taking the ball through the heart of the opponents defence before firing a well placed shot past Högalids keeper Svensson.

This game which was played in sub zero Arctic chill conditions was started by the handicap penalty system which saw Högalids captain Svensson convert his kick. It was a good natured affair with both sides coping well with conditions the Stripes were without many key players

But were able to turn to the resources within the club to field a team which coped admirably and on a whole had the better of the ball possession. Högalids came close on a couple of occasions early on and the stripes had Mole to thank when he got down well to scramble away a Svensson effort after a great through ball from Svensson. Barry Radford who has been carrying a hamstring injury elected to play in this match but had to leave the action reluctantly after only 22 mins. Långholmen created only one decent chance in the first half hour when the keeper Svensson held a Jim Taylor shot well. The frozen Långholmen contingent in the crowd warmed up by the wizardry of the blond bombshell as he celebrated his goal by ripping off his shirt to show his muscular torso, for which he was carded.

The second half opened brightly for the Stripes and the flying Dutchman Joost saw a great effort go narrowly wide. On 55 minutes stand in captain Mick O'Sullivan flighted in a free kick which found it's way into the net but was adjudged offside. Högalid then scored a superb goal when number 8 Pedro Svensson passed to Jocke Svensson who placed a great shot into the goal via the upright. It took the Stripes only minutes to reply when once again free kick specialist Mary O'Sullivan floated in another ball which found it's way to the head of Polish

striking maestro Artur Czapinski who headed home from close range. The Stripes then added another dimension of talent to the game in the form of veteran Morty McCarthy and it nearly payed off as the Irishmans shot on 74 minutes skimmed the bar.

The game then went into a very tense penalty shoot out and saw Thomas Karlsson open the scoring from the spot, Everest got his second of the day and Colombian Playboy Dave Molina also converted. Goalkeeper Mole then opted to take a kick and his poor effort rolled past the post much to the delight of their opponents. Artoo scored with his attempt but this was of no significance as Hógalids netted all of their kicks. Manager Nick Short was not too disappointed after the match as he had stressed all along that he regarded this as a team gathering, he was very proud of the way his makeshift team battled as he starts to rebuild before the season starts in April.

Man of the match: Kevin Everest a great workmanlike effort and a goal that is the stuff of legends

Crowd: 41

Ref watch: Fair

Penguin watch: None.

All the best Scot James

The match reporting team are not officially connected to Långholmen Football Club.

HOODOO CONTINUES FOR LÅNGHOLMEN

SOLBERGA 3 v LÅNGHOLMEN 2

18th august 2006, 16.45 kick off, Solberga IP.

The curse of division 6 continues for Långholmen as they once again endured a defeat at the hands of Solberga. Not even the return of former captain Robbie Graham could spur on the Stripes to victory. The young Irishman looking a few pounds heavier and a few yards slower than last season did however contribute with a fantastic strike to even things up in the second half.

From the start The Stripes looked positive and created one or two chances before Solberga hit them with the opener, an Andersson header beating stand in keeper Brian Kelly. As the half progressed it was a lack of communication and a sense of unfamiliarity that was the most apparent aspect of the away teams play, this was also the case with Solbergas second goal, a free kick from 25 yards found Andersson unmarked and he was able to get his head to the ball and steer it goalwards, once again giving the stand in keeper no chance. As the 45 minute mark approached Barry Radford stepped up and executed a fine free kick over the wall only to see his shot saved by Hans Christian Andersson in goal.

Deputy manager Chris "Lanky" Latham must of instilled a bit of fight in his troops for the second half as they got a goal back almost directly, a loose ball picked up mid way in the Solberga half found it's way to Marc Evans who wasted no time in powering his shot past the keeper. Solberga were stunned by this and found it hard to cope with Långholmens speedy approach and were lucky not to concede again shortly after. This was a good spell for the Stripes and their never say die attitude was rewarded when the prodigal son Graham latched onto a shot from 15 yards and directed his unstoppable effort into the top right hand corner.

The home team then got back on track and pinned back the Stripes who were gradually looking tired. Sven Andersson on the left handside gave Martin Sjögren a torrid time throughout the match and the Stripes player will be keen to forget this outing. Kelly had a couple of good stops in a frantic ten minute spell for the Stripes defence, most notably a one on one save which he parried away for a corner. With ten minutes to go the Stripes defence was at sixes and sevens as Andersson got hold of the ball and calmly slotted past Kelly to make it 3-2. Karrol Usher had the last chance of the game with a wild attempt at an equaliser.

The home team just about deserved their victory and now top the league. Långholmen will now be hoping for a more settled squad and a few positive results in the second half of fixtures. Wandering gypsy manager Nick Short will be back at the helm and will be swapping notes with stand in coach Latham who has done a sterling job in his absence.

Crowd: 47

Refwatch: A mediocre performance and a bit harsh on the yellow card front.

All the best Scottie.

The match reporting team are not officially connected to Långholmen Football Club.

LÅNGHOLMEN 0 vs 1 SOLBERGA

30th may 2006, 20.00 kick off, Östermalms IP.

SORRY SHOW AS STRIPES GO DOWN

For the second game in a row Långholmen came away with nothing. The difference this time round was they were beaten by a below average side and in that statement we are being kind. The Stripes will have no complaints in a game where they were lucky not to lose by at least four or five. In the very first minute Mole was forced into a good save after the slightly rounded figure of Pelle Svensson fired in a shot from 15 yards. As of late it seems to take the Stripes fifteen minutes to get into the game and this one was no exception. Artur Czapski had a double chance inside sixty seconds when first he headed into the side netting and then saw a fine effort saved by Jeppe Svensson. It was a cold night at Östermalms IP as the Stripes battled against the wind to no avail. A puzzling factor was why coach Nick Short never included dependable stopper Mark O'Sullivan earlier than he did, this could of gave the team a bit more confidence at the back.

The second half saw the Stripes try and play football and this lasted a whole ten minutes as Solberga then found new inspiration and had a lot of possession deep in Långholmens half, indeed had it not been for some astute defending by Taylor and Everest, who between them cleared the ball off the goal line four times, the game would have been over after the hour mark. Goalkeeper Mole had a good showing in the second

half and also contributed to the scoring being kept at a minimum. A vocally shy Short tried to change things and when O'Sullivan was introduced set pieces started to look like a threat for the Stripes.

The game was heading towards a goalless draw when up popped Ronnie Svensson to crash home a fierce shot into the top left hand corner. A cruel blow to lose a goal with only a minute or two left on the clock, but that was the story of the Stripes uneventful night.

It seems that a couple of key areas have to be improved in a side lacking imagination, a big strong bustling forward to help Artur up front is surely on Shorts list of wants.

Crowd: At best 17 at worst 6(it was freezing,ah the joys of Swedish summer)

Ref watch: A merited performance by the official.

All the best from a very bemused Scot James
The match reporting team are not officially connected to Långholmen Football Club.



LÅNGHOLMEN 1 vs 3 FITTJA

Thursday 25th may 2006, Gubbängen IP, 14.00 kick off.

TROUBLE AT THE TOP.

Långholmen have proved to be a bit of a bogey team for Fittja over the last few seasons, but today they broke there hoodoo with a fine win at Gubbängen. The fact that Nick Short remarked that Långholmen didn't look interested reflected fairly on the game, for periods they were just ball watchers against a good Fittja side who at the moment look like serious contenders in the challenge for the league. It took all of 25 minutes for Långholmen to even come near goal and that effort was a feeble one by Artur who seemed somewhat out of sorts in this game. Hugh McCarthy who was the home teams best player had a great chance to open the scoring after a well floated cross by Mike Cribben, Ibrahim got down well to save. Fittjas number 9 Ibrahim was looking a real threat up front and had strong claims for a penalty turned down by the ref ,it certainly looked like a spot kick form the press box. Långholmen gained a bit of confidence in the closing period in the half as they contained the hungrier Fittja team.

The Stripes defence was put under the cosh at the start of the second half and time after time were quite happy to lash the ball anywhere. The breakthrough however came when Mohammed picked up a loose ball in midfield and powered his way towards goal ,his shot giving Mole no chance. Långholmen seemed to have been wakened up after the opener and created a couple of fine chances but once again Artur just couldn't get the connection with the ball he needed.

A set piece looked like saving the Stripes when free kick specialist Radford bent in a fine effort past Ibrahim in goal to make it all square. That however was short lived as young Mohammed added his second of the day when he sprinted past the defence to lash home another fine goal, Långholmens defence could only look on in despair. The final nail in the coffin came when a superb piece of interplay created Marostanoinavinovich with a great chance and executed a good effort which once again saw Mole pluck the ball out of the net.

Långholmen will have no complaints about todays result as they were out thought and out played by a team that this long are division six 's best.

Crowd:39 (well done the lads and lasses that braved the wind and rain on a cold day)

Refwatch: By far the best referee this season. Sensible decisions and allowed the game to flow.

All the best Scot James

The match reporting team are not officially connected to Långholmen Football Club.

LÅNGHOLMEN 1 vs 0 BOLLMORA

Saturday 13th may 2006, Gubbängen IP, 12.00 kick off.

Last gasp strike seals it for Stripes.

Colombian whizzkid Dave Molina stepped up when it mattered and executed a fantastic shot in the 89th minute to give his side a hard earned victory.

Bollmora looked the more composed of the sides in the early stages, but no matter what they threw at the Långholmen defence they hardly found a way past to Mole in goal.

Mark O'Sullivan made a welcome return and teamed up with his old partner in crime Jim Taylor and gave the team a good solid foundation. The Stripes had to wait until 28 minutes for their first real attempt on goal when a Tomas Karlsson free kick scraped past the post. Svensson then had a good effort for the away team that flew over the bar.

Artoo, who did not get as much freedom in this match as he did in last weeks win, beat the offside trap and cleverly wrong footed his marker as he made his way in on goal, unfortunately he over ran the ball and could only cut it back into the area and the danger was cleared by Per Olov Erik Svensson.

The second half saw the Stripes play against a strong wind and this curtailed the use of the high ball into the box which so often pays dividends. The Bollmora striking duo of

Svensson and Svensson nearly found a way through after a slack pass in midfield, the younger of the two steadied himself and sent in a low hard shot which Mole saved well with his feet. Both sides just couldn't make the breakthrough much to the dismay of the band of supporters sitting in the newly built stand at Gubbängen. The referee who had a decent first half completely lost control in the second half and sent off Långholmens coach Nick Short and Nick Phillips. Short was sent off for disputing the players sending off .

It looked very much like a share of the spoils until the very last minute of normal play when a crafty through ball found Molina who controlled beautifully then unleashed an unstoppable shot into the net sending his team mates into raptures, Bollmora disputed this goal as there was a suspicion of offside, the goal however stood and another three points were sealed.

Another professional performance from the Stripes that betters their position in the league table.

Crowd: 30 plus

Refwatch: Not the man in the middles best match.

All the best Scot James

The match reporting team are not officially connected to Långholmen Football Club.

SUPERSUB SEALS IT.

ANDINO 2 vs 4 LÅNGHOLMEN FC

Saturday 6th may 2006, 15.00 kick off - Svartbäckens BP

The Stripes were optimistic going into this game against a team who have leaked a few goals already this season. The home team before the match had Pepe the juggling dog on pitch to entertain the fans, as they warmed up in the dressing room to salsa rhythms, their canine mascot could not however spur them onto victory as Långholmen took a very professional approach to this match and did what was required to secure all three points.

It started off brightly enough for the home boys as Chico Lopez blasted Andino in front with a well struck shot on 6 minutes. His brother Hugo Lopez also looked sharp and saw another rare attempt go just past on eleven minutes. Långholmen did not respond to any niggling tackles or complaining by the South Americans and with that composure levelled when a great through ball beat the offside trap for Barrie Radford to fire low past the 3 foot high keeper. From that moment on it was an onslaught by the Stripes and should of went in comfortable winners after the first 45, instead it was their opponents who took a shock lead when the tricky Sanchez found Lopez who blasted past Mole.

Andino came out for the second period with a real belief that they could win the match and looked hungrier than the visitors, until a marvellous strike by Deri Thomas pulled his side back into the game, receiving a finely crafted pass and executing an unstoppable shot past the tiny figure of Carlos Lopez in goal.

Polish striking sensation Artoo was then introduced to the field of play by Short in an attempt to give his side an extra attacking dimension and this paid dividends immediately when he pounced on a pass from Radford to make it 3-2.

The same player was on hand again when he beat the offside trap with precision to race in on goal and fire in a rocket of a shot into the bottom right corner.

Nick Short said after the match that his team made hard work of the victory but the positives were they created so many chances.

Quite honestly if his team had taken 50 percent of their chances the score would easily of been in double figures.

The Stripes now look forward to next weeks home match at Gubbängen and if they have their scoring boots on they could find themselves in the top three of the league.

Crowd: A very healthy home crowd of 45 (plus barbecue and beer)

Ref watch: Not too bad by the long haired man in the middle.

All the best Scot James

The match reporting team are in no way officially connected to Långholmen Football Club.

Match rapport redaction har ingen officiell anknytning till Långholmen Football Club.

Stripes Reserves 1 vs Ösmo 2

Gubbängen IP. sunday 23rd april, 12.00 kick off

This was pint sized Chris Lathams baptism into the world of soccer management, unfortunately for his team it ended in defeat for the Stripes second string.

Ösmo were a youthfull well organised side who were not afraid to put it about in the middle. The home team failing to penetrate their defence in the opening twenty minutes. Division 6 players such as Everest ,Radford and McCarthy as well as stand in keeper Paul all played a part in a well contested match. Number seven for the away side had a particularly good game with his fine close control and continual running. Heading into the break it was the visitors who took the lead with an unstoppable shot into the top corner from all of 25 yards.

The second half saw a gritty performance by the reserves as they constantly threatened their opponents goal. Against the run of play number seven once again broke free from his marker and placed a hard shot low and hard past the keeper to make it 2-0. Once again urged on by captain McCarthy the Stripes posed a threat and were rewarded for their persistence when Radford beat three defenders 17 times before placing the ball into the bottom corner. It goes without saying the young man is a great attribute in the goal scoring department but would benefit any of the teams he plays for more if he played the simple ball more often instead of holding on as long as he does, this only adds an

element of frustration to his side when attacking. This was a decent performance in the first game of the season for the reserves and they have the makings of a pretty decent side. Manager Latham said he was pleased with the input by all his players and with a bit of luck could of come away with a point.

All the best Scot James

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Foreword:

This season Stockholms Football Association have introduced a rule of *Noll Tolerance* which means abusive language and threatening behaviour will under no circumstances be accepted.

This of course is up to the individual referee how he interprets various expressions or actions.

It is with great regret that we have to report that due to some very bad judgement, today's match official saw fit to dismiss no less than five players from the field of play, eventually forcing the game to be abandoned after 83 minutes. Referees must have some leeway in their decisions otherwise the whole of this coming season will only result in a farce and perhaps even referees being themselves physically abused by irate players or supporters. We sincerely hope that the Association will address the implementation of the new rules sensibly. Långholmen may have been defeated today but the real loser was our wonderful game of football.

(The match reporting team are an independent body and in no way officially connected to Långholmen FC.)

Season start

LÅNGHOLMEN 2 vs TUNGELSTA 3

22nd April, 2006 / Gubbängen IP, 12.00 kick off.

A perfect day for watching football at Gubbängen was destroyed by a barrage of yellow cards and sending offs and left all who witnessed the debacle shocked and bemused. Tungelsta took the initiative from the start and gave Långholmen very little space to play the ball in midfield, the first chance falling to young Svensson whose half volley went just past the upright. They were then a man lighter after only 8 minutes when another one of the Svensson boys was sent off for abusive language. This however did not prevent the away side from taking the lead when a well floated free kick managed to find the head of Andersson who nodded past the helpless Mole. Nick Short tried to reshuffle his 3-5-2 formation but still no real breakthrough as the Stripes just didn't seem interested, in fact they created only 3 half chances the whole of the first 45 minutes.

A more determined home side came out in the second half and were really starting to look a threat. First Barry Radford had a snap shot that eased wide, then the same man saw a curling free kick effort canon off the bar. Dave Molina found himself with a bit of space on 58 minutes, he was then stopped in his tracks by a soft challenge, a skillfull piece of dive acting however ensured a free kick 20yards out which saw Radford fire home a free kick of sheer class. The Stripes then had Hugh McCarthy red carded for a second bookable offence making it honours even. Big Jim Taylor was captian for this match and lead by example in grabbing the second Stripes goal. A free kick found it's way to the six yard line and in a crazy attempt to get rid of the ball the big man was there to knock home from a yard out.

The following minutes were the stuff of Hollywood producers, you just couldn't make it up. Tungelsta kicked off and from almost half way equalised. Mole, who it must be said has had better games, misjudged the effort tipping it onto the bar only for the ball to bounce down and then rebound in via a shin pad, 2-2 and all to play for. A red card was then distributed to new boy Nick thus ensuring a mighty struggle for the homesters. Their fate was sealed when another defensive mix up enabled Svensson to round keeper Mole and shoot at goal, this was expertly saved by headband wearing and 1970s porno look alike Kevin Everest Lloyd, unfortunately he used his hand and he too was red carded. Svensson scored with the penalty and Långholmen were heading for their first home defeat in a very long time. The man in the middle then had to abandon proceedings when normally reserved, quiet man Thomas Karlsson was also given an early bath for apparently nearly swearing. Thus completing a shambles of an afternoon for all present. This should have been a day to cherish, first home game in a higher division, instead all involved with the home side left with a bitter taste in their mouths. Manager Nick Short understandably was shell shocked by the days happenings and stated that he may indeed be struggling to field a side next week.

Crowd: Around 20

Ref watch: I think the report says it all really.

All the best a very disillusioned Scot James.

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LÅNGHOLMEN FC 0 v 1 ASPUDDEN

Friendly - Gubbängen 20.30, 12th April 2006.

Långholmen returned to the very pitch that saw them win promotion last season. Their opponents in this pre season friendly were a young 5th division side Aspudden. The Stripes should of had at least a share of the spoils after a hard fought second half, if new boy Matt Twist had scored from his six yard effort it may have been a different outcome, unfortunately his effort was well saved by former Stripes player Stevie in goal. Aspudden fielded their strongest team in the first half and gave Nick Short some indication of what he can expect this coming season. The Stripes were up against a well disciplined and organised side who were very rarely threatened at the back and in fact their keeper did not have any troublesome moments at all in the first 45 minutes. In fact the talking point of the first half was when Aspudden's supporters who had positioned themselves behind the Långholmen goal, started letting off firecrackers. This was soon

rectified when pint sized terminator Chris Latham marched round to the culprits and ordered them to stop by saying in no uncertain terms that he would place a cracker in their behinds if they didn't stop.
The second half saw a complete new Aspudden side take to the pitch and with it a change of attitude and commitment for the Stripes. They came close on 49 minutes when young Colombian wizard Dave Molina forced his marker to hastily pass back to his keeper thus forcing the agile Englishman to make a diving save. Referee and charming Scotsman Nick Holland awarded an in direct free kick which was cleared from danger. New signing Karl Usher had a looping shot tipped onto the cross bar on 60 minutes .Aspudden could of wrapped it up when disco light shin pad man number 12 blasted high from 8 yards. The Stripes had no more chances in a game that played itself out in a gentlemanly manner. Encouraging signs for Shorts team are good performances by Kieran and Andy Startup as well as trialist Adde who looked very solid and hopefully will be an addition to the squad before the opener in two weeks time.

Crowd: About 16 or 9
Referee watch: An easy night for Scottish referee Holland
Mosquito watch: None yet, but they are coming soon.

All the best, Scot James of the match reporting department.

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