

## Bluefins push City Southampton Close

Written by Gavin Bridger  
Saturday, 06 May 2006 14:51

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Bluefins pushed Hampshire league leaders City of Southampton close to draw their latest game 9 – 9, at the Aquadrome.

A reorganised Bluefins team saw captain Steve Paton playing in goal and putting in the man of the match performance. Amazingly for Southampton 7 out of 9 of their goals were scored by their top player Mark Williams.

Bluefins started the 1st period strongly with shots from Ben Naylor and Steve Fairhead. Bluefins Paul Adams scored first with a trade mark shot from distance. A brace by Williams pulled Southampton ahead. Bluefins responded by passing the ball at speed with Bluefins Trevor Jones finishing off a good move to close the period out 2 – 2.

The 2nd period started with both teams trading goals, Alan Fairhead scoring twice and one from Dave Trehwella moved Bluefins ahead 6 – 4. Goalie Paton produced his man of the match moment, Williams was clean through with only the goalie to beat. He chose to shoot above the goalies head as his arms were spread out wide anticipating the shot to the corner, Paton rose high to head the ball over the goal.

Bluefins confidence was up and they started the 3rd period strongly, goals from Fairhead and Trace Morgan moved the team 4 goals ahead. However, Williams responded with two late goals and the period closed out at 8 – 6 to the Bluefins.

The 4th period saw Southampton continue the fight back. Paton and Adams swapped positions due to the latters personal foul tally. Southampton scored 3 goals to move ahead 9 – 8. Paton continued his fine form with a goal from a power play to level the game 9 – 9. Astonishingly in the last minute Bluefins Alan Fairhead missed 2 penalties and the chance to win the game slipped past.

Bluefins coach Gerry Lay said after the match 'he was very happy with the performance of the team in the first 3 periods, it showed we can compete and beat Southampton, however sloppy play in the 4th quarter let Southampton in back in to the match.'

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Bluefins were:

Steve Paton, Paul Adams, Ben Naylor, Trace Morgan, Alan Fairhead, Dave Trehella, Mark Lowry, Trevor Jones, Gavin Bridger, Steve Fairhead