

WOKING BOYS UNDER 18'S MATCH REPORT

DATE : 2nd October 2011
VENUE : Saffron's Sports Ground, Eastbourne
OPPONENTS : Eastbourne HC
COMPETITION : National Cup 1st Round

RESULT : Won 6-2 (3-1)

On the hottest Sunday in October since records began, Woking travelled down to the South Coast, not to play in the sea, but to play in the 1st Round of the National Cup against Eastbourne. This was in fact a rare appearance in this stage of the competition, as in previous years we had received a bye in this round.

The game took place at Saffrons Sports Ground, although given the conditions it could have been mistaken for a beach – it had been heavily sanded. That did not deter the Woking boys as they ran out worthy winners by a margin of 6-2 and it might have been 10 at least had it not been for some great saves by their keeper and a number of goal line clearances.

The first 10 minutes of the game saw goalscoring chances from both sides with Harry Samuels forcing the first save of the game followed shortly by Eastbourne's Pat Skinner's shot hitting the bar and the rebound being well saved by Sam Goss in Woking's goal.

The deadlock was broken in the 13th minute when another attack by Woking on the right saw the ball fall to Joe Lewin inside their 25. The Eastbourne defence seemed to freeze while he took the ball into the 'D' and fired off a shot under the keeper's legs, 1-0.

Only a couple of minutes later a stray square pass across their 'D' was picked up by Chris Way and was despatched in typical reverse stick fashion high into the net, 2-0.

23 minutes into the game and a rare defensive error from Woking saw Eastbourne's no. 13, Pat Skinner, pick up a misplaced pass in our 'D' and promptly slot it home, 2-1.

Once again for Woking, short corners were proving difficult to convert, 5 had been taken to no avail and it was not until the 6th did we convert our 1st. Chris Way received at the top of the 'D' and slid the ball back to Ollie Sugg who was waiting 3 yards out on the left side to fire home a well executed set piece, 3-1. In all we had 7 shorts in the 1st half.

With only a minute of 1st-Half regulation time to go Eastbourne broke into our 'D' and unfortunately Fraser Hope was adjudged to have deliberately stick tackled their No. 13 and a Yellow Card was given and a 'P' flick awarded. Pat Skinner stepped up and promptly sent the ball past the left hand post.

The second half started very promisingly for Woking with some excellent inter-passing. It was over 2 minutes before Eastbourne were able to actually touch the ball and so Woking's dominance continued with a 30 second period where we had multiple shots on goal from Joe, Archie and more, but Eastbourne's keeper pulled off a number of fine saves. But as luck would have it and against the run of play they got a breakaway goal, once again scored by Skinner, 3-2.

This was the catalyst to spur Woking into action and 3 short corners later it was Ollie's Sugg's turn to play the 'assist' role, this time passing the ball back to Chris Way and ... goal, 4-2.

The Woking pressure was relentless allowing the defence to get involved. An excellent run by Sam Parker down the left and into the 'D' set up Harry to fire off a well struck shot matched by another great save by Martin their keeper.

61 minutes gone and with the ambient temperature over 26 degrees the Umpires agreed for a Water Break

The goal of the game came in the 64 minute when Chris Way picked up the ball from a Long Corner on the left and took the ball into 'D' less than a yard from the bye line and hit an unstoppable shot into the top right hand corner, 5-2. You had to be there!!

To round off the afternoon Harry Samuels got a well deserved goal and Woking's 6th with seconds to go.

An excellent result and a great effort by all members of the team. Now we look forward to the draw for Round 2.

Once again we had 11 short corners, but converted only 2. In this instance the condition of the pitch did not help.

Man of the Match: Jack Thorpe, closely followed by Chris Way, Ollie Pike and Fraser Hope.