

## **Match Report – Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> February**

### **Boys Under 18 Mercian League**

#### **Woking 0 Lewes 2**

Woking continued with their topsy-turvy season, losing a match they dominated throughout. It is clear this year that they will have to concentrate on the Cup to gain success.

The first half started with the usual pattern that we have come to expect this term, with wave after wave of Woking attacks pinning back a resilient opposition. An aerial ball from Tim Ming to Andrew Mole resulted in the first serious chance and this was backed up with a superb through ball from Chris Way to Mike Stone, whose attempt was beaten away. Then it was Mike's turn to set up Mole for another effort. The first short corner was unusually not taken cleanly and Tim Ming was unable to get a shot away before a fast defence was upon him. Then, the two Tim's combined with Ming finding Downes with a great through ball, which the latter was unfortunately unable to control. Another attack, this time constructed by Fergus Imrie, again failed to trouble the goalkeeper. A puzzled Tom Leggett received a warning for obstruction and Will Swain received a green card for unprofessional conduct. At last Lewes managed to break the hold and penetrate a robust Woking defence, only for Justus Von Hanisch to make an excellent double save at the other end. On 25 minutes Ronak, who had been superb in defence, was struck by a stick and suffered a broken and dislocated finger. Bizarrely a short corner resulted and not for the first time this year, Woking found themselves trailing completely against the run of play. Ollie Baxter picked up the saved shot and lifted it over the prostrate Justus. With the wind taken out of their sails and the imposed emergency change to sweeper, with Chris Way dropping out of midfield to take Ronak's position, Lewes had the best of the final 10 minutes.

The second half continued much as the first with Woking in the ascendancy, but with Lewes defending stoutly and extremely dangerous on the break. Woking overcommitted in attack again, fell for the sucker punch and Nicau Parrington-Burchai extended the Lewes lead. The rest of the half carried on with Woking unsuccessfully trying to restore some balance to the score line and with Lewes content to defend their lead. The robust nature of the game meant that Lewes received a couple of yellow's to Woking's one late in the game, Giles Rozier-Pamplin reacting to a particularly nasty off the ball challenge insured that both gentlemen were kicking their heels for a while. As the game wore on, both Coaches managed to get themselves sent outside the ground by their respective opposing Umpire. The writer was reminded of the Les Dawson/Roy Barraclough sketch (ask your parents/grandparents) of two neighbours discussing other people in their street, as both mentors leaned each side of a floodlight post empathising with each other over their fate.

I don't wish to detract from an excellent match, however some of the tackling was robust in the extreme and the clarity of some of the decisions did not always reflect the nature of the passage of play.

Man of the Match – Chris Way – both for play making and for calming troubled waters.

With thanks to Jamie Pinder for Umpiring, Sam Ellis for Coaching and Team Manager Rik Farrer.

Also thanks very much to the Under 12s who left a large packet of Jelly Babies for the boys if they won, although defeated we felt the U18s put up a substantial fight and therefore allowed them to enjoy the JB's during the MOM vote in the club house after the match.