

## Match Report – Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> November

### Boys Under 18 Mercian League

#### Woking 2 Bromley & Beckenham 2

Prior to Sunday's match Chris Burton Brown sat the team (well most of it) down in the Committee room and spent half an hour explaining how the Umpire sees the match and how umpires are being directed by the governing body.

A couple of things came as a surprise to the boys, one in particular was that umpires are generally only going to give a couple of green cards to a team and then move on to yellows, so you may have played impeccably for 40 minutes before making a foul but if two of your team mates have already got greens you are likely to find yourself sitting on the side with a yellow for an offence that would have only received green at the beginning of the match.

We would like to think that a lot must have sunk in as Woking only picked up one green card in the match, we thought their discipline was first class, a significant improvement from the previous match, and it made it a much better game, on another day, one yellow could easily have cost us the match. Well done guys please keep it up, we will not be able to win these matches with less than 11 players on the pitch.

A game decided simply by effective short corner routines might, on the face of it, seem to be a dull affair, but far from it. These were two well drilled sides, displaying a lot of team and individual skill, effectively negating each other out in open play.

Despite the writer missing the opening 10 minutes, on his arrival it appeared that Woking were in full flow, pinning their opponents back into their 'D', without ever really threatening the goal. All the while dangerous counter attacks from Bromley, made the game open and exciting, the home crowd enjoying yet another feast of hockey from this young team.

Short corners added to the pressure from Woking and following a strike on goal by Andrew Mole, (saved well by the B&B keeper), Tim Ming picked up the rebound and opened the scoring with a superb flick. However B&B were gaining more and more territory and eventually from another short corner Johnny Maise equalised for the visitors. In a period of strong domination B&B gained the lead following another short corner effort, this time from Simon Firth. Woking looked fairly deflated at this stage and reached half-time 1-2 down.

Coach Tim Metcalfe's team talk had the desired effect and Woking hit the ground running in the second half, doing all the hard graft up to the 'D', again without threatening the goal. However with

the B&B defence tiring, Woking enjoyed a series of short corners, with Tim Ming in particular varying the routine, from choice drag flicks, to spreading the ball to onrushing colleagues. From one of these attacks, Tim slipped the ball to Andrew Mole, whose well struck shot was saved low by the keeper. Mike Stone picked the ball off the keeper's pads and lifted it high into the net for the equaliser.

Woking maintained their domination until the end of the match and despite further strong runs by Giles Rozier-Pamplin, Andrew Mole and Will Swain amongst others, in addition to a fantastic double stick save by the B&B keeper, the game ended in a draw.

Strong performances throughout the squad, particularly by Fergus Imrie at right back, Chris Way in midfield and Moley working hard throughout, ensured that Woking were always a threat, Giles was the writers man of the match, tormenting the opposition with searing runs and only just failing to score a winner with a one on one with the keeper at the very end of the match.

That said, B&B were a very good side and had a solid defence. A notable right back who set up many counter attacks with precision aerial passes and a highly mobile midfield that were dangerous throughout the 70 minutes.

A point well won.

Massive thank you to.....

Tim Metcalfe for coaching, Chris Burton Brown for Umpiring & the pre-match "umpire session" and Chris Stone for the brilliant match report.