

Match Report - Boys U12 (U12 Wessex Div 2 (North) League)

Andover 1 - Woking 6, Sunday 9th October 2011

This was a game of 3 halves (3 x 20 mins) played in perfect conditions against an Andover side with home advantage and with a few really skilful players especially their number 12. A solid defence of Tom (in goal) Harry, Adam, Noah and Thomas and the midfield terriers of Daniel, Christopher and Matthew provided the foundation for what turned into a decisive victory.

In the first 20 mins it started very evenly with Woking doing their fair share of defending before forcing a series of short corners. Woking also had some good attacks from open play but in general the Andover keeper was stopping everything that came at him and clearing his lines. Finlay was unlucky with a cracking shot that hit the post. Harry was defending well when Andover attacked.

After the interval Woking came out determined to strike at goal early when in the D and this paid dividends with Sam crashing the ball into the top right corner from the left side of the D with an effortless strike. This sparked a fightback with Andover's number 12 seeing a lot of the ball and Andover briefly clawed themselves back to level terms by overloading the right side of the Woking D (1-1). After that with Thomas and Adam doing some fine block tackles and intercepts and Noah sweeping the ball forward at pace Woking started to look like a classy outfit especially playing down the right wing through Christopher and Marcus. Now when Woking got into attacking positions they were stepping inside the D and striking early before the keeper was set - the goals started coming thick and fast with first Finlay making it 2-1 then Marcus striking from the right side edge of the D for 3-1. Andover were still causing problems when their number 12 got the ball but increasingly the Woking midfield was playing in Andover's half with Ben prominent just behind the strike force and Matthew breaking up Andover's play. Further goals followed as Ben put through Sam for his second of the match (4-1) and Finlay also got his second (5-1).

During the second interval Woking decided to snuff out supply to the Andover number 12 and as a result when the match restarted began to take complete control with even the defenders getting in and around the Andover 22. Daniel was keeping the Andover right wing attack penned back and Ewan was strolling around the top of the 22 picking out passes. Andover began to find themselves outnumbered in their own D on occasions but the congestion made getting a goal very difficult as strikes were deflected away by the crowd of players in front of goal. Woking also forced a series of short corners to no avail. Just afterwards Finlay hit the post for the second time in the match to miss out on a hat trick. One isolated Andover attack saw Tom remaining alert and making a decisive save after having been virtually a spectator since the Andover goal. Andover were awarded a short corner but when that broke down a quick 16 yard hit set up a blistering counter attack through Marcus and Finlay and this time with fewer bodies in front of goal Adam swept the ball home from a classic goal scoring position just near the penalty spot - and this from one of the defenders! (6-1). Finally the whistle went as Woking had a short corner and this allowed all the players to come forward. Not for

the first time the ball pinged around the Andover D but ended up being deflected away by the melee of players in front of goal.