

Match Report - Sunday 13th December

Boys Under 14 Mercian League: Guildford 5 Woking 8

Boys Under 14 Development (Friendly): Woking 3 Petersfield 4

Mercian South v Guildford - On another wet and cold morning the boys faced a Guildford team that was stronger than the squad we played in the U14 club competition a few Sundays ago. Any hopes that they might have harboured about turning the tables on us were quickly dashed within the opening minutes, when the boys played some good hockey to create several scoring chances. Alexi Yakas, Will Calnan, Will Chapman and Charlie Gilbert playing midfield were able to dominate and supplied Robert Moore and Weston Lord with a steady supply of attacking options. The Guildford defence was often overwhelmed by Alexi and Will Calnan's stick skills in taking the ball past them. Where Guildford did break out of their half, the defence of Christian Williamson, Harrison Hubbard, Sam Kelly and Mathew Ming were able to mop up most of their attacks. One point to note is that while we established a dominance early on, we failed to distribute the ball to the wide channels which would have created even more opportunities - we will need to learn to do this effectively as the stronger teams will quickly close down the centre and stop players trying to dribble through on their own. However on the day, the half time score was a comfortable: Woking - 4; Guildford - 1.

The boys started the second half strongly and scored their fifth shortly after the restart. Guildford did not give up and came back to stay in the game, scoring their second and third goals. After this period of coasting, the boys started to regain their concentration and racked up another three goals. James MacDonald has a good match playing in midfield and in defence, providing us with the option to rotate players around the tiring midfield. While Guildford scored another 2 and started to find their rhythm, it was too little, too late from their side. At the final whistle the score was Woking - 8; Guildford - 5.

Goals were scored by Alexi (4); Will Calnan (3) and Weston Lord.

Friendly v Petersfield - a game lost that we should probably have won but certainly drawn. Thank you to Charlotte Calnan for stepping in to play and to those who doubled up on the day, Matthew M, Will C, Christian W and Edwin K. Ultimately the extra hockey counted against us in that weary legs allowed Petersfield to capitalise on the space created by the tired legs not having sufficient energy to cover back.

A 2 - 0 lead with 2 goals from Will Calnan was reduced by Petersfield following their breaking when we were over committed but Will restored our 2 goal advantage before half time to complete his (second) hat trick of the day. Lukas Fabricius was outstanding in defence with his performance comfortably his best of the season to date. Mark Slater at right back also put in a number of telling tackles at crucial times and with Tom Gebhard making his first U14 appearance in goal and making some good saves we kept Petersfield at bay when they seemed certain to score.

As the second half progressed instead of letting the ball do the work we began to dribble too much and when tackled unable to cover the space behind and this was exploited on a number of occasions culminating in a goal to make the scoreline 3 - 2. With 10 minutes to go a short corner flick from Matthew was brilliantly tipped onto the bar by the Petersfield keeper and

from the ensuing break Petersfield levelled. 4 - 2 would have won us the game but as it was our heads dropped and Petersfield nicked a 4th goal to nudge them ahead for the first time. We had a number of shorts and good chances in the final 5 minutes but were unable to snatch an equalizer that we deserved.

A great effort over the day to end an extremely satisfactory first half of the season.