

## Match Report - Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> December

### Boys Under 16 Mercian League

#### Woking 4 Ashford 2

Another good victory for the U16 boys yesterday, our win over Ashford maintains our record of only being beaten once in what is now 17 matches. Ashford were top of the league, not any more, not only are we now three point clear at the top but also have the best goal difference.

Ashford turned up with only 10 men as some of their players had headed off to and "Indian hockey tournament", so initially it appeared we may have an easy ride, this was soon proved to certainly not be the case, although we moved the ball beautifully up the pitch, with no problem getting it to the Ashford D, we struggled to find the net and I have to say we always looked vulnerable against the Ashford break. Our first goal wasn't to come until we won a short corner, when we slipped it right for a shot which was saved but Jack was there to put away the rebound. Our second was scored by Chris with a firm shot that was deflected in to the net by an Ashford stick. It was now looking like we were more in control, however Ashford were soon to pull it back to two all and suddenly the pressure was on. The Woking boys kept their composure, maintaining possession and passing the ball, which eventually led to two more goals to give the final score of 4-2, both scored by Giles' a good reward for his tremendous efforts throughout the match.

We didn't award a man of the match but special mention has to go to Giles for his work rate and obviously his two goals and to Sam Parker for showing us how well he can play up front as well as in defence, he demonstrated great positional play, a fantastic turn of speed and great ball control. Ed Brierley also put in a good performance on the right wing (once he got his shorts fixed) and deserves a mention. To avoid naming everyone else I will simply say "no one had a bad game", Well done boys you all played very well and are working more as a team each week!!

Many thanks to Jamie Hutchin (captain of the men's twos) who coached the game for us, his main observation was that we have the ability to pass the ball around really well so we should do much more of this, he says we need to be patient, if it's not working one side move it round the back, and try again but above all keep possession and keep them running after us, if they don't have the ball they can't hurt us and if we are passing and they are running they will soon tire.

Also thanks to Craig Fruin (Colts Director of Coaching) who came to watch, his main observation was that our defenders need to stay upright a bit longer and not commit too early, as once the attacker knows what the defender is going to do, it is much easier for them to get round him, in particular don't offer the flat stick too early.

A big thank you to Chris Burton-Brown (Colts Chairman) for umpiring the game and coaching the "non match" U16 boys earlier in the day.