

## Match Report - Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> February

### Boys Under 14 Development (Friendly)

#### Petersfield 3 Woking 5

The boys played some good hockey against a strong team in this friendly match on Sunday. Woking lost the toss and Eugene Smith, Tom Orme and Sam Kelly had to soak up some initial pressure from Petersfield who showed teamwork and individual skills in the opening minutes. As the boys got into the match, some good interplay in the right hand channel between James MacDonald, Bas Hilders, Charlie Gilbert and Will Calnan showed the potential for opening up the Petersfield midfield and defence if we passed the ball around. Play moved between both halves of the pitch as both teams made a number of threatening attacks reaching each other's D and Sam Goss was called upon to make some good saves, standing-up to the Petersfield attackers, cutting down their shot angles and/ forcing them to shoot wide.

In the 12th minute, one of our attacks up the right hand channel created opportunity for Will Calnan to open the scoring with a reverse shot into the top of the goal from a narrow angle. Petersfield were not deterred and came back straight away, scoring in the 13th minute with some strong movement through the midfield and a through ball to their forwards. Play then moved between both Ds, until the 22nd minute when Aiden Thompson scored with a well executed deflection following some more good play along our right channel. Once again Petersfield came back and scored their equaliser in the 24th minute. The half time score was Woking - 2; Petersfield - 2 and we knew this would be a tight match.

Woking started the second half strongly winning a short corner which Mathew Ming converted with a well struck shot in the first minute. However, not to be outdone, Petersfield came back and equalised in the 3rd minute of the half.

For the next period, both teams were evenly matched and neither side were able to establish dominance with Alistair Brierley, Charlie Gilbert and James keeping hold of the midfield. While the stronger boys on the opposition began to tire, Woking was able to maintain their level of play and pleasingly kept playing together until the 18th minute when the boys won another short corner which Mathew again converted. While Petersfield tried to come back after this, they were unable to break through our defence, where Will was asked to play in a defensive midfield role. Will and the defenders were able to break down all of their attacks and supplied Robert Moore, Bas and Nicola Scorovich with a good supply of attacking balls. Robert was particularly effective at running back to receive the ball and touch it onto the wings, stretching the Petersfield defence with these one - two passes. This sustained pressure was too much for the Petersfield defence and one delightful series of short quick passes between our forwards, starting from inside our half led to Nicola Scorovich scoring in the 26th minute. This effectively settled the match and the final score was Woking - 5; Petersfield - 3.

The Peterfield coach was kind enough to pass me this complement on the match yesterday evening: "...it was a fantastic match and a great spectacle, and actually the two matches against Woking have been some of the best games that we have had this season."

After the disappointment of the previous Sunday, it was good to see the boys play to some of their potential and show that they have absorbed skills

learnt in training. The one area that they need to bear in mind is getting into positions quickly for restart of play - either defensive or attack. We will be looking to include this in the next few training sessions so this becomes more of a habit as we were caught out by this in both of the last two matches.

While all of the boys played well, I would like to make special mention of Bas, who despite being delayed, when returning from a school trip on Saturday, was able to play the majority of a long, hard match.