

Match Report – Sunday 14th November

Boys Under 16 National Cup

Canterbury 14 Woking 1

Woking BU16s travelled to Polo Farm on Sunday to play Canterbury in our first match of this competition. From the outset Canterbury showed that it was going to be a difficult match, moving the ball quickly around the pitch and their players moving well off the ball. In contrast we were slow to move or pass and were usually caught in possession with Canterbury able to jab tackle the ball away from us. This meant we were unable to put together enough passes to build up any rhythm or purpose to our play. As we often lost the ball in the midfield or in our 23m area, Canterbury were able to immediately attack the D and applied periods of intense pressure.

When we did get the ball past the half way line, we were able to apply some pressure to the Canterbury D and Patrick McGrath put away a rebound from an attack in the 22nd minute. However, we were not able to retain enough possession to seriously threaten their D after this. The half time score was Woking - 1 ; Canterbury – 6.

Woking then started the second half retaining possession and moving the ball quicker around. Canterbury were forced to chase around the pitch and we started to show some of the potential that we had. However, we let ourselves down by not moving as well off the ball and lost confidence in ourselves when Canterbury were quick to capitalise on passing errors. They added significantly to their score line during this phase and the final score was Woking - 1; Canterbury - 14.

Clemens von Hanisch was asked to pull off a number of excellent saves throughout the match. Fraser Hope was outstanding as Captain, supported by Joe Lewin, Alexi Yakas and Mathew Ming. Ed Oliver playing in his first match for us had a baptism of fire in the first half but came back in the second half to show good character. Sam Goss who was asked to play on the left wing showed some of his speed against the Canterbury defence on the odd occasion. It was pleasing to see that there was still spirit in the team at full time with Archie Lipyeat, Ed Hilton, Will Chapman and Will Calnan playing on to the end.

We now look forward to playing the winners of Guildford v Haslemere in the next round of the plate competition. Details to be confirmed but the match must be played before 13 February.