

Match Report - Sunday 15th November

Boys Under 16 National Plate

Woking 8 Sevenoaks 3

This was undoubtedly our hardest game of the season, with both teams having narrowly been knocked out of the National U16 Cup competition and, consequently, out for revenge. For this reason, Woking were able to put out one of our strongest squads of the season with a team boasting several Surrey and Regional players.

Coached by Sam (1st XI goalkeeper) the team gelled immediately with excellent distribution, always initiated and controlled by Ronny as sweeper. Sevenoaks soon proved to be a physical side with one or two 'off the ball' barging incidents - this spurred the team to deliver a much quicker one touch ball distribution which sliced through the opposition's mid field and defence.

By half time, Woking were 3-1 up and relatively in control. Second half the score increased to 5-1, but Sevenoaks were not beaten. At 5-3 we were concerned. But this was short lived - the team raised the tempo and 3 more goals were slotted in. By this time, rolling subs were the order of the day with just about the whole team having a 3 minute breather prior to rejoining the match.

At the end of the game, my match summary referred to 'Sexy Hockey'. Sadly I fear that none of the boys had known of Ruud Hullitt's Chelsea remarks! Perhaps a better description was champagne hockey. I think the boys realized that the quality of play had been of a standard not seen to date (caveated by the fact that I wasn't present at Canterbury which I believe was of a high quality). They have every reason to be proud of this achievement. Sevenoaks were a very strong side yet we were able to dominate the majority of play.

The quality of our goalscoring was matched by the strength of our midfield, and the solidness of our back four.

Goals were scored by Way , Pamplin 2 , Powell 2 , Yakas 2 and Lipyeat. (Would appreciate one of the boys confirming these stats as Rik likes to keep a record. I'm sorry if I missed any scorers out).

Well done to everybody. It was a pleasure to watch. Thanks to Sam for coaching - the boys always listen intently to him, and to Whit who umpired and gave further support during the match briefing. And a thank you to Gary Blythe who came to watch and ended up coaching the second half. His feedback at the end of the match was that he genuinely feels this entire squad - including everybody who didn't play today, to be one of the strongest U16 squads in the country. Praise indeed.