

Match Report - Sunday 17th October

Boys Under 16 Mercian League

Woking 9 Guildford 7

As you would be aware, the boys played Guildford on Sunday in their first match of the season. It turned out to be a high scoring match with good skills being shown on both sides - I have provided a summary below, but this doesn't do the match full justice.

After holding out against some good pressure from the Woking forwards in the opening stage of the match, Guildford took a two goal lead, both from counter-attacks - the speed of which caught our defence by surprise. We responded with a change in positions and two early substitutions to counter this happening again. The boys then settled into their rhythm and reapplied their pressure. This resulted in Woking equalising and going ahead 4 - 3.

Guildford were not out of the match however, and came back to level the score 4 all. The boys then stepped up a gear and scored another two goals. During the first half, Archie Lipyeat, Will Calnan and Harry Samuels combined effectively and, with support from Robert Moore, Patrick McGrath, Will Chapman, Nicola Scorovich and Mat Ming, Woking dominated many aspects of the play and kept the Guildford defence under pressure. Joe Lewin kindly offered to switch from midfield to defence as cover for Oli Walpole who had a re-occurrence of an old knee injury, while Ed Hilton and Fraser Hope also needed to be on their toes for the many counter attacks that Guildford threatened to put together. While the new playing formation we used contributed to us scoring a glut of goals, it also left Sam Goss exposed as GK. We will need to reconsider when to use this formation or to get defensive cover as players push forward in turn.

The first half ended with Woking - 6; Guildford - 4.

In the second half, while the boys created opportunities to score, Guildford were more organised in defence and managed to limit Woking to another three goals only - all of these from short corners. Guildford, however, were not content to just defend and took their opportunities to counter attack, scoring three more during the second half. The score at the final whistle was Woking - 9 : Guildford - 7.

Scorers were: Harry Samuels (4), Archie Lipyeat (3), Will Calnan and TBC (please let me know who scored the last goal as I could not see the scorer for the Guildford defenders).

Overall I thought that the boys played well and did not let their heads go down when Guildford took the early lead. This is an important characteristic for them to develop and maintain as they go forward. Thanks to Robert Moore, Nicola Scorovich and Patrick McGrath for playing in different positions each time they went onto the pitch. Special thanks to Chris Burton Brown for umpiring - pleasing that we did not get any cards, while Guildford got at least one green for a poor tackle.