

Match Report - Sunday 17th October

Boys Under 17 Friendly

Boys Under 17s 7 Mens 4s & 5s 1

Yesterdays match was a friendly arranged with a mix of the men's 4th and 5th team with a bit of help from the captain of the 3s and one of the men's ones (our very own Ronak).

The boys were instructed by Tim Metcalfe (coach and opposition) not to try and run through the men as they were bigger and heavier, but to make the ball do the work and pass around them and enjoy watching them get tired. This is exactly what they did and within 5 minutes Captain Jack had put the first away from what can only be described as a badly bumbled short corner, two minutes later he got his second and the tone of the match was set. At the 10 minute mark a free hit was given just outside the D and while everyone else were strolling back in to position Tim Downes took it quickly, ran it in to the D and slipped it to John Humphries who popped it away. Having been asked to drag-flick the short corners after scoring at Petersfield Will Farrer found himself watching the first three from the side line but once on the pitch he scored with his first attempt with a knee height drag-flick which I understand are much harder to save than those at head height, 4-0 after just 18 minutes, however 4-0 it stayed till the break as the men's team had tightened up their defence and were figuring out how to keep the U17s out of the net.

At Half time Tim took off his opposition head and put his coaching head back on and praised the boys for their performance and asked them to keep passing as the men were noticeably getting tired. He also swapped keepers to give Patrick Haddad (borrowed from the U16s) a bit more to do and Phil Casey a bit of a rest.

However within 3 minutes the men made a surge on Goal and beat our new keeper (would Patrick have let that happen?) to score their first and only goal. The U17s were still struggling to score and although on the whole they kept passing the ball well, a few frustrated attempts to take on players were easily dealt with by the men's defence. Then after 35 minutes (half a match) without scoring the U17s were awarded another short, this was dragged at goal by Will but beautifully saved by Patrick, unfortunately only as far as Sam Camsey who seized the opportunity and popped it in the back of the net, breaking the "goal drought". Less than five minutes later Jack took on and beat most of the men's defence and scored his hat-trick with what could only be described as the "30 second Jack show," Great work Captain!! The final goal came from Tim Downes who used his pace to create a one on one with the keeper and having drawn him off the line casually lifted the ball over his head, a great calm controlled goal, making a final score of 7-1.

The aim of the match was to get the boys to meet some of the men's players and assess the standard of the 4/5s for themselves to see if they might like to play men's hockey, I understand two more U17s will be playing men's threes this Saturday. The boys played very well and I am pleased to say didn't pick up a single card. I also hope the boys start to feel part of the club as a whole rather than just the colts section.

A puffing 4/5s debrief was overheard to say, "They obviously we're not out late enough the night before", "where do they get all that energy from" and "next time you do that I might have to be somewhere else".

A massive thank you to all the 4s and 5s who came and gave the U17s a good fight. Sorry if my match report is a bit one sided but I think you guessed who's side I was on even though I had played 5s the day before. I hope you enjoyed it!!

And of course another big thank you to the two guys who made it possible, the umpires Andy Woolley and Girish Deshpande. Job well done guys.