

Match Report - Sunday 22nd November

Boys Under 14 Mercian Development League

Surbiton 0 Woking 3

The boys played Surbiton in a Development league match. It took some time before the boys settled down and were able to move the ball around properly. This meant that Surbiton had opportunities to dispossess our midfielders and counter attack. To hold our own against the stronger teams that we will come up against, the boys will need to improve their passing and positional play - good teams use all the team members to work the ball around the pitch. At U14 level, everyone needs to concentrate on what is happening all of the time and think about what they need to do to support each other. We also need to meet on time to get a full warm up and match talk so the boys can start playing properly focussed.

The first half was consequently mixed with play moving between both goals as each team gained and lost the ball. Woking had a few opportunities to score but all our shots were straight at the GK. We started the second half in better shape and Alexi scored from a short corner after some pressure from Woking. Surbiton were still in the match and came back strongly, forcing Sam Goss to make a brilliant save (diving low to his right to save a third attempt in a row - after stopping both the first shot and the follow up second attempt), half way through the second half. Energised by this Woking won a short corner and Alexi scored his second of the day with a drag flick. Towards the end of the match as the midfield opened up and the boys put together some good passes to move the ball upfield, Alexi was able to score his hat trick from open play.

The final score was Woking - 3; Surbiton - 0.

Comments from David - All in all another good performance from which we have to take away more positives than negatives. Great hockey in places but a match that we should have won more easily than we did. In the main we must keep the ball after we make a tackle by looking for the simple pass. Once we have made a pass look for the run into space so you are available for a return pass. All over the pitch the ball must be kept strong. Finally, more poise when entering the D and by that I mean that we have to be calmer before executing the final pass or shot. Well done and let's remain unbeaten until Christmas.