

Match Report – Sunday 28th November

Boys Under 18 Wessex League

Camberley 3 Woking 3

A hard fought battle between two fairly evenly matched teams, that said I think we should have won (I'm sure the Camberley coach is saying the same thing). In reality, the match could have gone either way.

Woking looked strong in attack from the outset and it only took us 10 minutes to get our first goal, a slap through the D from Matt Powell helped in by Will Farrer (it was going in anyway but I guess Will gets the Top gun points). The next 20 minutes were to remain goalless with Woking pressing hard but failing to score. Although managing to keep a fast breaking Camberley out of our net, we were looking a little shaky on occasions at the back. Then five minutes from half time, Will Farrer fired one across the goal and Sam Camsey deflected it high in to the back of the net, a goal so slick it took the umpire (and the spectators) a good while to figure that it had actually gone in. However in the very next minute Camberley finally broke down our defence and scored their first. The score remained at 2-1 at half time. So we retreated to our goal to discuss the half, I shared my observations that Camberley were marking us much better than we were marking them, making it hard for our forwards to break through and exposing us at the back. I explained that when we push up we must not all push up at once and we must mark man to man leaving no blue shirts free in the our D. Camberley always looked dangerous on the break and we had to protect against this.

Just one minute in to the second half and Camberley had levelled the score, we needed to regain control of this game. Within 5 minutes Matt Powell had made a run down the right wing, beat several defenders, got himself in to the D and with a cracking tomahawk struck the ball hard in to the net, 3-2. The score was to remain unchanged for the next 25 minutes with extended periods of pressure at either end. Patrick Haddad did a fantastic job in the pads keeping us in the game on several occasions, but several frantic goal mouth struggles, a few short corners and an obviously practiced hit and tip technique from Camberley saw the scores levelled with only five minutes left to play. Both teams fought hard for the remainder of the match but neither could get the winner so the game ended at three all.

Observations. We gave away too many short corners, fortunately not Camberley's strong point as most came to nothing, we didn't win enough short corners ourselves and although well executed our drag flicks were not doing the job this time. We struggled to get the ball quickly out of defence and back to our own midfield often giving away possession needlessly, we need to pass the ball on quickly and not try to beat the player. I think Camberley's defence was more organised than ours making it hard to find their net, I think their attack was generally not as good but we did get caught out on the break and their strike from outside the D looking for a deflection inside caught us out at least twice, we need to be aware of this in future. That said if we had scored another goal we would have won.

A big THANK YOU to Andy Woolley for giving up his Sunday afternoon and umpiring for us again!!