

Match Report - Sunday 29th November

Boys Under 16 National Plate: Camberley 1 Woking 11

Boys Under 16 Development (Friendly): Yateley 5 Woking 5

Camberley v Woking National Plate competition

The Camberley manager called me an hour before pushback to discuss the pitch and we took the decision to press on, on arrival at the pitch we could see the Camberley guys had worked very hard to clear the pitch and there was only a couple of small patches of standing water, grip seemed fine so we agreed we could go ahead. The problem now seemed to be, only two Camberley players had turned up, there had been a slight glitch in the computerised selection system and the others were all expecting a 1:30 PB, after a lot of frantic calling round Camberley assembled a full team and we were ready to start half an hour or so late. At this point the heavens opened but we pressed on regardless. I also have to put my hands up and apologise for forgetting the White match shirts, so worried about the pitch I completely forgot, anyway Camberley royal blue and white against our navy was considered different enough and the match commenced, Sorry boys ! I was really grateful for the boys "don't worry it's Ok" attitude to my error.

With the rain now falling and standing on more and more of the pitch these were difficult conditions to play hockey in, but that didn't seem to worry the seemingly unstoppable Woking team who tried hard to play their normal passing game. The conditions would simply not allow the long ball so a series of short passes was the order of the day. We discussed after the match how it was hard to analyse what we might have done differently and just agreed that we coped well with the conditions and as we won 11-1 we must have been doing something right. Under the circumstances it's hard to write a proper match report except to say the whole team played well and to say a special thank you to Sam Goss (U14 keeper) who came along to help us out but actually had very little to do and must have been absolutely freezing by the end. At half time I asked the Camberley boys and then Woking boys what they wanted to do; carry on or abandon (The Camberley coach was happy to give Woking the win at this stage) and to their credit both teams were unanimous in their desire to continue. Considering the conditions we won't worry too much about the selection of sitters that went begging today!

Scorers Chris Way 4, Ronak patel 2, Harry Thomas, Jack Thorpe, Harry Samuels, Joe Lewin, and Alexi Yakas

Another Big thank you to Andy Woolley who umpired in the rain for us !! without guys like Andy these matches simply can't go ahead.

Yateley V Woking Friendly Match

A well earned 5 - 5 draw at Wellington College today.

A big thank you to John Brierley who managed the team at Yateley today and provide the following report.

I think the weather had not surprisingly numbed our minds slightly as it took us some time to gel properly today but when we did get it right we showed our true potential, Woking have shown that they can play great

passing hockey and their long balls up to the strikers are a joy to watch when they come off. Early on however loose balls were let through our midfield and left our defence with a lot of work to do. Ed Hilton ran his socks off and came up with a plan towards the end that nearly gave us the win but this was sadly stolen from us by a dubiously awarded short corner that we failed to clear. We had a fantastic last few minutes when I thought we might just sneak another but the final whistle came at an opportune time for Yateley.

We could have had at least another 5 goals from crosses that came right across the goalmouth - maybe something to practice with the short corners?

So, I think communication was lacking today but the passing when it came was good - the new members played their part & Tony showed promise as a future steady hand. John was harassed by one player from their side who seemed to think that part of the game was to constantly test John's shin pads with his stick but he kept his cool.

Yateley provide both umpires as we were sadly unable to find one this time - one of whom was a young girl - a couple of the decisions were not the best but the boys, despite being a little miffed, got on with the game.

Well done guys