

Match Report – Sunday 30th January

Boys Under 18 Friendly

Woking 7 Petersfield 0

Petersfield turned up looking every inch an adult team with some big strong boys, they hit the ground running and came at us very hard, for the first five minutes I thought we were going to have trouble. However we stayed calm, defended well and used our superior skill to get the play back up the other end allowing Sam Parker to open the scoring at seven minutes. Sam had agreed to play out of position at the top of the midfield diamond, although usually a defender this was an opportunity to enjoy a chance up front, I guess his hat trick shows it was a good idea. We out manoeuvred Petersfield and soon started racking up the goals with Sam scoring again two minutes later and Fergus sneaking one in at the fifteen minute mark. Fergus not only played a great calm controlled game at sweeper, mopping up anything that broke through our defensive line but also came forward for short corners and helped with the score line. Sam completed his hat trick just before half time.

At half time we agreed that we were obviously playing well enough to be winning 4-0 but I believed the boys had more in them and let them know I would like to see firmer accurate passing and better use of the width, we are capable of passing the ball around the pitch not just up one channel and I for one wanted to see it.

In the second half we executed repeated passing moves from centre to right mid where Jamie Hope was making his return to hockey after a year's break, he used the space he has found and was easily able to move the ball up to the forwards. One of these passing manoeuvres meant John who had been running hard all game was rewarded with a goal just five minutes after the restart. Joe Cunningham completed a well executed slipped short corner routine meaning the centre back joined the sweeper on the score sheet! A final quick one-two passing run from John to Sam and back to John gave Johnny his second, a top goal almost impossible to defend and a fine example of the passing I had asked for.

Once again the glory boys at the front get all the credit, it's all too easy to write about the goals but our defenders worked hard today too, Petersfield has a couple of very strong players who kept powering down the middle and apart from a couple of scary moments we cut them off every time, meaning Justus had to do very little except jaw exercises. Midfield also played well, owning the centre of the pitch, and tracking back when needed. Petersfield never gave up and continued to work our defence until the final whistle.

After the match I agreed the boys had played well but said I would still like to see more width. Maybe I was a little harsh on them as I still believe they can play better but I guess it is hard to raise your game when you are winning so easily. What was good to see was the desire to look for and find the pass, some were intercepted but the point is they were trying to pass and not trying to beat the man. Perhaps just a little too much dribbling at times but all in all a good passing game.

We still have two Wessex league matches to come, Yateley 1:00 away 27/02/2011 and Camberley 12:15 home 20/03/2011, we only managed a draw away to Camberley last time, something I think the boys are now ready to correct in the home match.

And finally, even though Woking felt a few decisions went against them they kept their discipline and chalked up yet another match without so much as a green card, highly commendable well done boys.

Many thanks to Whit for his work on the whistle.