

Match Report - Sunday 6th December

Boys Under 18 Wessex League

Woking 4 Southampton 4

Well done to our makeshift team on Sunday in securing a 4-4 draw with Southampton B in the Wessex league division 2. It was an entertaining game between two evenly match sides, and ended with us having been ahead twice and behind twice. Having got down to 10 players in the middle of the week, thanks were due to Giles and Fraser who stepped up from the U16s and played admirably.

In a good clean game, Woking started with the pressure and Stefan converted a rebound from a short corner after 10 minutes, and Southampton equalised 5 minutes before half time. A minute later, Steve who had been playing in midfield, shot on goal with a reverse stick strike, and, judging by his reaction, he was as amazed as the rest of us when it went in. Tom, playing at right back again, drove down the wing using pace and skill from well inside his own half into the opposition's D but no-one could get on the end of his cross. So it was 2-1 at half time.

Southampton scored twice in the first 10 minutes of the 2nd half to go 3-2 up, and so it stayed until 10 minutes from the end, when a rare foray up the field from long time sweeper Dec resulted in him taking a shot from the top of the D, and although it wasn't the cleanest shot, again it went in - so that was now 3-3 with two goals for the defence. By now, the match was end to end and could have gone either way, and Southampton took the lead again with 5 minutes to go. Our will to win kept us going forward in waves, with Will and Stefan also picking up green cards, and the equaliser finally came with one minute to go, courtesy of a Stefan drag flick along the ground. Then finally, in the dying seconds, Mike conceded a short corner for a deliberate back stick just inside the 23, but it went wide, and an honourable 4-4 draw was the end result of a very enjoyable match.

Dec was Man of the Match, and obviously if the guy who writes the match report is voted Dick of the Day, then you can't expect an accurate account - suffice to say that Steve was runner up for his goal celebration.

Many thanks to Andy Pike for coaching the team, Girish for umpiring, and also to Nora for co-ordinating the baked potatoes afterwards, and to all the parents who helped as well (Jacky, Liz, Nick, Jill, Chris, and everyone else who I can't remember now).