

**Match Report** – 03/02/08 by Andy the Manager

## **VCD 1 Dartford FC 1**

### ***Kent Youth League – Central Division***

Sunday was not the ideal day to be playing football! Add to this the uneven surface at VCD you can imagine how difficult it was to play our normal passing game. To be fair to VCD, they were also disappointed to be playing in the reserve pitch rather than the 1<sup>st</sup> but when the grounds man says no he means no!

Earlier in the season we had played very well against VCD at PP, only to let them off the hook by not taking our chances – that was our only 0 – 0 result of the season so far. VCD are a good side that, through their older average age, compete very well and put you under pressure quickly. However, we knew what to expect and we also knew that a win would have seen us go top. The game started and we played some good football at a high tempo. In the first couple of minutes the pitch showed its true colours by causing Ashley Issuree to lose his footing, allowing Juan Ramirez, latterly of the VCD 1<sup>st</sup> team, to get his shot away at goal. Deren Ibrahim was more than a match for the effort and saved comfortably.

Dartford really took a hold on the game and considering that we were kicking up hill, we had the larger share of the possession. We created some good opportunities from the edge of the box, notably for Matty Man, and our wide play, through Danny Nash, ensured that we stretched the VCD back four. Despite the creation of these chances, we were unable to find a way past the opposing goalie, who did well when faced with efforts by James Jordan and Danny Crouch. We rarely looked like conceding but just couldn't take our chances. **H/T Score 0 – 0.**

The second half started in much the same vein with Dartford declining to make any subs due to the first half performance. The half time talk had preached patience, calmness and vocal support and again we went close through a Matty Man header, but it was VCD that took the lead. The Dartford back four did well to clear their lines but didn't follow the ball out. The ball got to edge of our area and a shot evaded everyone and left an unsuspecting Deren helpless as he could only watch the ball creep inside the post.

To their credit, the Dartford players didn't panic and kept plugging away. In an effort to claw back something from the game, JoJo Baiden, Lewis Sutherland & Callum Nye were withdrawn to make way for Tom Eyers, Mat Wanless and Grant Wilks. The young Darts went 3 at the back with Jack Walter being pushed up front in an attempt to hold the ball up. This switch in tactics worked as with 5 minutes to go, James Jordan found himself 1 on 1 with the goalie following a through ball by Jack. JJ drew the keeper and put his scuffed shot past him to level the game – given our luck in front of goal of late, the keeper probably would have saved a well struck shot!

The game finished 1 – 1 in what was a fair reflection of the two games between the sides this season. I must mention the VCD players and staff, they were a very sporting bunch and very complimentary of the Dartford side. The game was a pleasure to watch due to the attacking nature of both sides and I wish VCD luck for the rest of the season.

**Team:-** Deren Ibrahim, JoJo Baiden (Mat Wanless), Lewis Sutherland (Tom Eyers 80), Jack Walter, Ashley Issuree, Danny Crouch, Sean Heather (C), Dan McNeill-Nash, Matty Mann, James Jordan, Callum Nye (Grant Wilks 75)

Subs not used:- Billy Senington (GK), Sami Kadri

**Goal:- James Jorden (85)**

**MOTM:- Sean Heather**



***Next match:- Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> February Dartford vs Crockenhill (Home) 11am K/O***