

Match Report – 13/01/08 by Andy the Manager

Dartford 2 Folkestone 0

Kent Youth League - Central Division

After last week's defeat, 3 points were needed to give the team a boost. Looking at Folkestone's recent form, we knew they weren't going to roll over and let us take the 3 points as easy as we did when we visited them earlier in the season beating them 5-1.

After the tragic accident in Dartford this week, we had a minutes silence in memory of local lad, Matthew Hobbs, which was impeccably observed. All our thoughts and prayers are with the Hobb's family and friends.

The game then started well with chances coming thick and fast for Dartford. The 3 man defence worked well as a unit and was a good back stop for our four man midfield. The idea was to go with 3 forwards to try and capitalise on any possession we could retain. Chances came and went with opportunities arising for James Jordan, Sami Kadri, Grant Wilks, Callum Nye. The young Darts were also forced into taking shots from distance as the Folkestone defence and midfield camped on the edge of their own area with the intent of repelling all advances. Even when the Darts created opportunities, not for the 1st time this season, the opposing goalkeeper made some outstanding saves. The only time Dartford struggled at the back was when they allowed sloppy passing to creep into their game. *Half-time score:- 0-0*

The message to the players at half-time was to calm down, slow the game down, play more from side to side and to draw the opposition away from their own box.

The players clearly took this onboard and used the wings much more effectively which allowed us to stretch the Folkestone defensive ranks. The introduction of Luke White in the 60th minute, balanced the team up well and his left-footed crosses created plenty of threat in the opposition penalty box. One of these attacks resulted in a corner for Dartford and it was Luke White himself who rose highest at the far post to head home to put the Darts 1 nil up in the 80th minute. 5 minutes later a great bit of distribution by Deren the goalkeeper, found Grant Wilks 45 yards from goal on the right hand side. Such was the swiftness of the move that James Jordan was left all on his own to race onto and excellent piece of skill in the form of a back heel from Grant Wilks. JJ collected the ball, raced to the edge of the area, drew the goalkeeper and slotted the ball past him to make the 3 points safe.

Although we had to work hard for the points today, earlier in the season, we may well not have had the cutting edge to claim all 3 points but such is the progression of the squad in terms of player additions, we now have that extra something to turn draws into wins. The overall team performance today was excellent. We never looked like conceding and on another day, we may well of scored more but credit to Folkestone who were very difficult to break down. It was good to get back to winning ways in the league, particularly as we do not have a fixture next week and a cup fixture the following week.

Team:- Deren Ibrahim, Jack Walter, Lewis Sutherland, Ashley Issuree, Sean Heather (C), Danny Crouch, Dan McNeill-Nash (JoJo Baiden 75), Callum Nye (Matty Mann 70), James Jordan, Grant Wilks, Sami Kadri (Luke White 60)

Subs not used:- Mat Wanless

Goals:- Luke White (80) James Jordan (85)

Man of the Match:- Grant Wilks



Next U18's match:-

Sunday 27th January
Walderslade v Dartford (KCFA Cup – 3rd Round)
Ground & K/O:- TBC