

Match Report U18's Youth Team

Sunday 20th April

Dartford 3 Deal Town 2 🏆

This game, our last match at home this season, was always going to be a tight affair, as we've learnt this season that almost every team is capable of beating anybody in this league. A good start for Dartford resulted in Callum Nye putting us ahead in the 15th minute when he prodded the ball home following a corner by Matthew Man. Dartford dominated the half up until about 10 minutes before the break when the visitors were gifted an equaliser. The 1st half was very entertaining with Dartford playing some very attractive football. Particularly pleasing was the way that we got the ball down and the way we used both wings effectively. I may be a bit biased here, but I don't think there is another team in this league that used the wide areas as well or as much as we do.

Half-time score 1-1 *At half time we spoke about ensuring that we tightened things up at the back by playing more compact and basically just asking for more of the same going forward.*

The 2nd half started in the same vein as the 1st with Dartford playing at a high tempo. The game was effectively over as a contest when 2 quick goals by Callum Nye and Matthew Man coming in the 1st 10 minutes of the 2nd half. At one stage, Dartford had 7 corners on the trot and whilst we couldn't capitalise on these corners it was good to keep the play in their area for long spells.

Credit must also go to Deal Town, who came back into the game when they scored their 2nd goal with about 15 minutes to go bringing the score to 3-2 but this proved to be the end of the scoring. This was a good performance and some of the passing and movement was a joy to watch. The win put us **top of the league**, albeit with the teams behind having some games in hand, we have done all we can to put the pressure on but having said at the start of the season that anywhere in the top 4 would be a good season, we are now virtually sure of finishing there.

I felt that today we didn't get all of the decisions that we maybe should have and the crowd made sure they gave the ref some "helpful advice"! I would rather have the excellent support that we get at home if the alternative is a quiet and dispassionate following! 👍

On reflection, this has been a season of great development for the U18's. We have had 1 player have a taste of being involved with the 1st team and we have had no less than 5 players represent the U21's in competitive games. You don't have to win things to have a successful season, and if trophies were handed out for progressing players, I'm sure that we would be among the leaders there aswell.

Team: Ibrahim, Walter, Sutherland, Heather (C), Forbes, Keenleyside (Issuree 65), Baiden, Crouch, Nye, Man (Jordan 75), White
Subs: McNeill-Nash, Kadri, Heffernan

Goals:- Nye (2), Man



MOTM:- Callum Nye –

Unlucky not to get a hat-trick when his acrobatic, overhead kick came back off the cross-bar!