

Dartford FC 0 VCD 0

**Kent Youth League - Central Division**

Playing the league leaders was never going to be an easy match and the final result proved this. However, Dartford didn't take long in testing the VCD defence and goal keeper with shots hitting the crossbar and clearances being made off of the line. Although, they could have slotted at least two more easy chances to be 4 nil up in the first 20 minutes, it just wasn't happening. With some great passing and moving, the young Darts looked comfortable and played some very good football. VCD had an attack on the 25th minute and a good shot was saved, one-handed, by Deren Ibrahim. Shortly before the half-time whistle was due to be blown, play was stopped due to a bad injury suffered by the VCD midfielder, who was taken off to hospital. We all wish him a speedy recovery.

*Half-time talk consisted of carrying on where we had left off at the end of the first half.*

The 2<sup>nd</sup> half started very much the same as the 1<sup>st</sup> but with VCD upping their game and with Dartford still trying to find the back of the net! Sean Heather was then replaced by JoJo Baiden as he was feeling unwell. Some excellent defending from Lewis Sutherland stopped VCD coming back into the game. Sami Kadri then made way for our new forward Ben Jones. Still those chances were being made, but they still couldn't find the back of the net with some excellent saves and clearances from the league leaders. Lots of groans from the supporters as they just couldn't believe how these shots weren't going in! The ref didn't have a particularly great game after choosing to ignore our linesman on quite a few occasions! Who'd be a ref! Grant Wilks then made way for Daniel McNeill-Nash but then the ref blew his whistle moments later after saying there was 5 minutes left??!! The final score 0-0. The team felt very frustrated as they felt they could have won this match and gone to within one point of VCD.

On a more positive note, there was quite a few compliments from the opposition supporters about our young Dartford team who in all fairness are up against stronger, older players most weeks. Their manager couldn't believe that his side didn't lose 6 nil! Well we got a point and are now 2<sup>nd</sup> in the league, so it's not all bad for these (mainly) 1<sup>st</sup> year U18's!! Well done to Deren Ibrahim & Danny Crouch who played for the U21's the day before and won 3-0.

Merry Christmas & A Happy New Year to you all.

**Team:-** Deren Ibrahim, Jack Walter, Ashley Issuree, Harley Forbes, Lewis Sutherland, Jordan Keenleyside, Danny Crouch, Sean Heather (C) (JoJo Baiden 55), Sami Kadri (Ben Jones 65), Callum Nye, Grant Wilks (Daniel McNeill-Nash 85)

**Man of the Match:-** Lewis Sutherland



**Lewis Sutherland**