

Bootle "A" Youth 4 v Woodley Sports Youth 0

Woodley Sports Squad:

Kev Cooney, Tom Sellers (c) (Luke Lewis), Arran MacFarlane, Mike Conoma, Jamie Sanckston, Jason James, Joel Atkinson, Jason Wilde (Jack Wilson), Jordi McNally, Kris Dickenson (Jay Bebbington), Jermaine Hunt

Subs: Rick White, Luke Lewis, Jack Wilson, Jay Bebbington, Dan Fradley

If the youth players had not already learned from the previous 3 games the standard of work rate and commitment needed to compete in this league then surely they have had it hammered home now.

Woodley actually got off to a bright start and had the opportunity to go ahead early in the game from a free kick on the right. Unfortunately we failed to capitalise on the opportunity and were to pay dearly later on. The wind had really kicked up and was really causing us problems from clearances. Whenever we tried to work the ball out from the back the Bootle players worked very hard to close us down quickly and it was becoming very difficult for the back four.

Bootle took the lead through a dream goal when a player making a diagonal run (to their right side) into the box picked up a neat pass, took a couple of touches and fired a diagonal shot back across the goal and screaming into the top far corner. Although it was a superb finish I have to say that from our own perspective it was a disappointing goal to concede as I felt the player should have been closed down much quicker and worked out much wider away from goal. The first half played out with very little happening for Woodley and Bootle mainly threatening from a couple of corners but no real clear-cut chances.

HT: Bootle 1 - Woodley 0

The half time talk was positive and optimistic as we all felt that the wind had played a large part in the game and now we would have the advantage and could make it count. Unfortunately this was not the case. Woodley did manage to press Bootle back for the first 10 mins or so but Bootle's work rate when not in possession was very high and their movement off the ball when in possession was tearing through our midfield and exposing the defence. Woodley just did not stay with them. It wasn't that we couldn't stay with them because I believe that we could of, we just didn't. As the game progressed Bootle rammed home their superiority with 3 goals that were all a mixture of good play from Bootle and poor commitment from Woodley. We were beaten, down and out after the second goal and too many players went missing. Only 3, maybe 4 of the players could have emerged from this game feeling they had tried to compete. It was a disappointing performance.

FT: Bootle 4 - Woodley 0

To summarize Bootle were far more competitive, and street wise for Woodley today. They showed maturity in their game with an understanding of what it takes to win games. Hard work, commitment and skill. As much as I felt that the referee was extremely lenient with Bootle throughout the game they showed their edge, standing over every free kick, kicking balls away at throw-ins, shouting for everything and tackling hard but they new when they were going too far with the referee and showed the maturity by backing off.

Woodley have to learn and grow up fast.

Two players, Tom Sellers and Jason Wilde were subbed due to injuries and replaced by Luke Lewis and Jack Wilson respectively.

Kris Dickenson was replaced by Jay Bebbington in a tactical substitution.

Winning is not the most important thing but the players should be starting to understand that WANTING to win is everything.

On a final note. Lets all look at this performance and learn from it. I know we can. Lets all pull together as a squad and put in a performance in the FA Youth Cup that we can be proud of.