

Venue: Lambeth Grove, 2.30pm Kick Off

Score: Woodley Youth 1 v Ashton Athletic 4

Scorer: Jermaine Hunt

Starters:

Rick White, Tom Sellers(C), Mike Conoma, Arran MacFarlane, Joe Booth(Luke Lewis), Jordi McNally, Joel Atkinson, Jack Wilson, Remi Wadley(Jason Wilde), Jason James(Kris Dickenson), Jermaine Hunt.

Subs:

Jamie Sankston, Jason Wilde, Kev Cooney, Luke Lewis, Kris Dickenson

For the opening 25 minutes Woodley Youth controlled the game and set the pace with some fast flowing passing football that saw them create 2 or 3 good scoring opportunities that they unfortunately didn't make count. Ashton dug in and managed to ride the storm and indeed took the lead when a good run on the left got them into the box and to the bye line, the ball was played across the Woodley goal but was cleared to the edge of the box where an Ashton player picked the ball up unchallenged and rifled a low shot across Rick and into the bottom corner. It was a real sickener but the 20 minutes that followed were to prove worse. Woodley had the wind knocked out of their sails and Ashton now driven on by the goal made their superior strength count and made it 2-0 with a well worked goal. Worse was to follow when a low driven shot across the goal was smothered by Rick but unfortunately due to the wet conditions the ball seemed to squirm out from under his body and into the path of an Ashton player who cut the ball back across the goal where it was rammed into the back of the net.

Half Time: Youth 0 v Ashton 3

The half time whistle couldn't have come quick enough and it was a chance for Woodley to re-group and set themselves up for what would now be a really tough second half. Woodley came out determined and again they managed to set the pace of the game. A couple more chances were created and signs were starting to show that they might just manage a revival. Following a really good move where the ball was worked from defence through to attack the goal that Woodley deserved came. Woodley had worked the ball out to the right where it was driven hard and low across the box where Jermaine was making a darting near post run and his finish was first class when he guided the ball across his body and into the opposite corner of the goal.

It was now Woodley's turn to be bouyed and looking like they could get another. Chances came only to see a driven cross missed by a hairsbreadth at the back post by a couple of sliding Woodley players this was followed by an excellent ball chipped in behind the Ashton defence for Jack who stretched out and lobbed the keeper only for it to smash of the bar and back into play where unfortunately none of the Woodley players could capitalise.

Ashton were always a threat coming forward and did manage to score a fourth and ultimately match killing goal late in the game.

There are no doubts that Ashton deserved to win the game. They made their spell of play count with the three goals. However 4-1 always sounds like a team was never in it whereas this was not the case. A lot of positives can be taken from this game such as the commitment and belief of the players throughout the game even when 3 goals down (the attitude of all the players in the changing room at half time was impressive), the quality of the football they displayed and the ability to control long periods of play.

The fact of the matter is that had Woodley, as a team, been more ruthless when attacking during their spells of control then this game could have had a much different ending.