

# Comberton Crusaders FC

Comberton Crusaders 15 - 0 Saffron Walden Town B 16<sup>th</sup> September 2007

Squad: Peter Atkin, Jamie Baker, James Biswell, Tom Blair, Sam Bradshaw, Joe Dickens, Teddy Elbourn, Huw Gordon, Paul Hardy, Sam Hills, Harry Houghton, Milton Marrero, Callum Pinner, Mark Smith, CT, Charlie Wetton-Smith

In their first home game of the season Crusaders celebrated the warm weather with a goal glut against Saffron Walden Town B, going one better than last week with eight different scorers notching fifteen goals between them.

The writing was soon on the wall as Crusaders created chances from the outset, first when SamH crossed well for Joe to fire over, and then when Tom and SamB combined for Callum to test the keeper. Saffron Walden also ventured forward but found Paul and CT composed in defence, and Crusaders always looked the more likely to score; the opener duly arriving when Callum's weaving run into the box was helped on by SamB to **Joe**, who paused momentarily amid offside claims before slotting home. Crusaders quickly doubled their lead when Callum again fed the ball to **Joe**, who followed up emphatically after his first shot was parried. It was soon three when **Tom** embarked on a solo run around the full back before striking a low cross-shot that gave the keeper no chance.

Pausing briefly for breath, Crusaders resumed the onslaught with a flowing move from the back, initiated by Paul and involving Jamie, Charlie and Tom, whose cross saw SamH challenging bravely at the far post, creating the opportunity for **Joe** to lash home his hat-trick. Crusaders rang the changes up front but continued to dominate, with rugby aficionado CT firing over the bar 'Jonny Wilkinson'-style and Callum's shot saved via a post after good work from Charlie. Tom also went close before **Peter** made it five for Crusaders, running in and slotting under the keeper from Charlie's assist. Saffron Walden were grateful to see play shift to the other end, but Harry came out confidently to claim and the respite proved short-lived as his long clearance found CT, who laid the ball through for **Callum** to tuck home and make it 6-0.

Number seven arrived in the shape of a fine header by **Charlie** from Tom's pin-point corner, and direct from the restart **Tom** took matters into his own hands with a solo run from the half-way line to score easily. Next to try his luck was SamH, his rasping drive from Tom's cross saved brilliantly by the overworked Walden keeper, but **Peter** popped up to notch his second and Crusaders' ninth with a prod under the keeper from Callum's pass. With half-time approaching the visitors threatened briefly, drawing a fine save from Harry and firing wide, but at the break the 9-0 scoreline told its own story.

The second period opened with a changed Crusaders lineup but a similar pattern of play, and chances soon fell to SamH, who fired just over from distance and hit the bar from Tom's cross, and Milton, who ran through a stretched defence before prodding just wide. More Crusaders pressure saw **SamH** brought down in the area, the young midfielder getting up to score confidently from the spot, and a good run and cross from Milton then allowed **Peter** to divert the ball in for his hat-trick. The scoring dried up for a period as play became scrappy, the visitors mounting a series of forays that saw Mark and CT defending strongly and Harry called into action on two occasions.

Crusaders got back on track when Joe's run ended with a shot parried to **SamH**, who lashed home for number 12. **Joe** was next to cash in, notching his fourth when Callum's blocked shot fell invitingly, and Charlie then tried to go solo, getting all the way before firing wide. There was time for Crusaders to try some unusual formations, notably when stalwart defenders Paul and James sampled the rarefied atmosphere of the forward line, Indeed, the experiment bore fruit when James fed **Paul** to beat two men before rifling a 'postage stamp' shot into the top right corner, and the story was complete when Milton surged forward to put **James** in the clear, the stopper showing a striker's aplomb to shoot



low into the far corner. The final moments were somewhat scrappy as Crusaders players queued up to score, with James going close to a second goal as his effort hit the post but stayed out.

Nick Dickens

Scorers: Joe (4), Peter (3), Tom (2), SamH (2), Callum, Charlie, Paul, James  
Assists: Callum (3), Milton (2), SamB, SamH, Charlie, CT, Tom, Joe, James