

# Comberton Crusaders FC



## Match Report



## Gamlingay United 1 – 6 Comberton Crusaders

16 October 2011

It was a time to renew an old friendship on Saturday as Comberton travelled to Gamlingay for the first round of the cup. The cloudless sky and warm Autumn sunshine meant conditions were perfect for a pulsating match.

Straight from the kick-off Gamlingay looked like they meant business and attacked in numbers. They had a lot of possession and kept Comberton pinned into their own half for long periods. Matthew, George and James defended resolutely and broke up most of the attacks but Gamlingay did get some good shots away and keeper Ciaran Coyle was called into action on more than one occasion.

Comberton made some substitutions on fifteen minutes to try to change things and after weathering the storm, slowly they began to have more influence on the match. With Owen Coyle now operating at right side midfield and Joe McNally up front the tide began to turn. Josh Price took a corner on the right that the full back George Taylor met perfectly and cushioned into the net to open the scoring.

Moments later the ref blew for hand ball 15 yards out from the Gamlingay goal. Josh Price stepped up to take the kick and duly sent it over the wall and past the keeper for number two. It was a magnificent finish and crucially it came very close to half time.

In the second half both teams came out with lots of energy. Comberton had more of the possession and made progress into Gamlingay territory. Josh Price was beginning to find some form and took the ball in space 15 yards from goal. With a trademark strong shot found he found the net to make it 3-0 to Comberton.

Gamlingay refused to give up and soon produced a fast break on the left side that evaded the Comberton defence. The winger got in one on one with keeper Joe Cary and shot for the corner. Joe got a hand to it and pushed it against the post only to see it run along the line and stay in play. The Gamlingay forward retrieved the ball and shot hard and low into the net to pull one back.

The revival was short lived as Joe Cary hoisted a kick from his hands up-field into the path of Josh Price. In a classic pass and move he touched the ball wide to Felix Serby and collected the return in space where he was able to neatly place the ball wide of the keeper to move the score to 1-4.



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Comberton dominated the game from then on and piled on the pressure. Joe McNally went close on a number of occasions but just couldn't find the net. It was another kick-out by Joe Cary that created the next goal. Ciaran Coyle controlled the ball deep in the Gamlingay half and pushed it right to Josh who met it in full flow and unleashed a shot that the goalie could only parry into the net.

With five minutes to go Gamlingay got forward in numbers and looked to be about to score but Tom Dawes got back to block and in the process landed heavily on the floor. He opted to sit out the remainder of the game and defender Matthew Coyle came on at left midfield. He made an immediate impact with a strong run down the left wing that ended with the keeper saving a ferocious shot.

In the last minute Comberton forced a corner on the right side and Owen Coyle placed it into the box for Matthew to deftly redirect it into the net to open his account for the season.

The final score was Gamlingay 1 Comberton 6 and apart from the first fifteen minutes they deserved the victory. Overall it was a great team performance with players working unselfishly for each other in every part of the field. Josh Price was given the Man of the Match award for Comberton with four superb goals.

Comberton move on to play Teversham next month in round two.

**Squad:** Ciaran Coyle, George Taylor, Joe Cary, Matthew Coyle, Josh Price, Owen Coyle, Tom Dawes, Felix Serby, James Mikelson, Chris McFarlane, Joe McNally

**Player of the week:** Josh Price

