

Teversham 1 – 4 Comberton Crusaders

Round two of the U11 cup saw Teversham and Comberton facing each other for the second time of the season. The sun beamed down on a tight pitch that brought back memories of the 7 a side days.

Comberton lined up in an unfamiliar 3-2-3 formation with Matthew Coyle taking up the central slot of the trio upfront. Teversham set up to defend in numbers and looked to counterattack when the play broke down.

In the early stages Comberton defended solidly at the back and passed the ball well in midfield. In the last third they ran into a concentrated Teversham defence. The wingers were closed down fast and limited to the odd shot on goal.

Against the run of play it was Teversham who scored first. The ball was fired into the box with pace and was headed away by Joe Cary but it didn't get far and as the defenders attempted to clear, the ball rebounded off a Teversham forward and back into the net. It was a moment of comedy defending that left keeper Harry Newman no chance.

Both teams played some good football and Josh Price went close with a shot that grazed the bar. Teversham continued to counterattack and put pressure on the Comberton defence. Crusaders turned defence into attack when Joe Cary stole the ball on the edge of the box and passed it wide left to Josh Price. The midfielder placed an inspired crossfield ball into the path of Chris McFarlane wide on the right. Chris moved it along the wing and crossed it for Owen Coyle to tap in on the line. It was a classic Comberton move.

Teversham kept coming and they were awarded a free kick in a central position for a hand ball just outside the box. The shot cleared the wall and went just wide of the post. Moments later they had a corner on the left side. The ball came in at waist height and although Harry got his hands on it the ball slipped past him and onto the line. Luckily for Comberton James Mikelson reacted first and hooked the ball away to safety.

In the second half Comberton stepped up the pressure from the start. Harry Newman received the ball on the left direct from a goal kick and went on a run down the wing. He got to the byline and fired in a cross that evaded the defenders and found its way to the back post where Ciaran Coyle was waiting and he tapped in to put Comberton ahead 2-1.

Alfie Ward was starting to make an impact at centre forward and went close with a fizzing long range shot. Chris and Felix also had chances that were saved by an in-form Teversham keeper.

At the other end Teversham were trying to get to a shooting opportunity but the Comberton defence could not be broken down. George Taylor directed a goal kick at

Owen Coyle in midfield, Owen laid it to Tom Dawes who looked up and saw Alfie Ward in space behind the Teversham. His sublime pass left Alfie one on one with the keeper while chased by two defenders. The finish was cool and assured as he placed the ball low into the left corner for take the score to 3-1.

Teversham were awarded a free kick again in a central position after a strong challenge. Comberton set up a wall but the Teversham forward curled it over and Joe Cary had to palm it away for George Taylor to clear.

As the game drew to a close Tom took a corner on the right. Owen headed it on to Josh Price who shot from the edge of the box and scored to complete a good cup victory for Comberton.

Overall this was a fast moving and exciting cup tie. Both teams played very well and showed good movement and skill. Teversham lost their way a bit in the second half and perhaps just needed a goal to get them back on form. Comberton by contrast seemed to grow in confidence as the game progressed and their passing and movement was excellent at times. Defensively they showed they could limit teams to scraps and that tends to please coaches even more than a hatful of goals.

Player of the week: Alfie Ward