

Comberton Crusaders 2 – 3 Mildenhall

After a sparkling cup performance last weekend it was back to the league for Comberton U11 Boys as they entertained Mildenhall. Despite their long trip the Mildenhall team looked fresh and up for the game. Once again the sun shone and pitch conditions were perfect.

The start couldn't have been better for Mildenhall as they scored from their first attack. In fact the ball hit the back of the net within thirty seconds. With an innocuous looking drive through midfield they got a shot away but it had no real power. The Comberton defence seemed to freeze in the face of the oncoming big attacker and the ball made its way quietly unchallenged into the net to put Mildenhall into the lead.

The shock stung Comberton into action and for the next ten minutes they dominated possession and attacked the Mildenhall goal. With four at the back the Mildenhall defence stood up well to the onslaught.

Felix Serby received a throw-in out on the touch line on the right side deep in the Mildenhall half. He created a yard of space and crossed into the box. As it came in Chris McFarlane got his toe to it and deflected it to the keeper, who couldn't hold it and the scores were level.

Both teams showed great attacking qualities but Mildenhall's defence was slightly more assured as they made it difficult for Comberton in the last third of the pitch. Although defending in numbers they moved into attack quickly leaving only one at the back and it was one such move that led to Mildenhall's second goal. A shot from 15 yards out was blocked by a Comberton boot but the ball looped over the defender's head and the centre forward latched onto it and headed it past Ciaran to make it 2-1 to Mildenhall.

In the second half Comberton pushed men forward in search of an early equaliser. Felix and Josh went close but the Mildenhall defence and keeper were able to keep them out. With all the Comberton pressure up front a few gaps were appearing at the back and Mildenhall were awarded a free kick on the left side about 20 yards from goal. The ball was fired in towards the far post and a forward had drifted in un-noticed to meet it. In the ensuing scramble with Owen on the floor, the ball was bundled over the line to put Mildenhall 3-1 ahead.

For the last five minutes Comberton played with two centre forwards to try to salvage something from the game. Suddenly Mildenhall found themselves under sustained pressure and with the shots raining in the keeper was called to perform some great saves.

Tom Dawes launched a corner towards the box that appeared to strike a Comberton player and Mildenhall appealed for a free kick but the ref allowed play to continue. As the ball made its way to the back post area, full back Matthew Coyle was first to react and drove the ball into the left corner of the net to pull the score back to 3-2 and make it a nervous last few minutes for Mildenhall. However Mildenhall are a team who know how to defend a lead and see a game out. At the final whistle Mildenhall had won 3-2 and the supporters had watched a hugely entertaining game.

The difference between the two teams was simply that Mildenhall were more disciplined in defence and got back in numbers when Comberton had the ball. They made fewer mistakes and took their chances when they came.

Player of the week: Matthew Coyle

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