

## Match Report - Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> January

### Boys Under 18 Mercian League

#### Lewes 4 Woking 2

Thank you to all 11 players who made the trip down to Lewes this morning - and of course to the spectators who braved the cold and Chris Stone for helping to get the pitch de-iced beforehand.

We had 8 players unavailable today, due to holidays, injury and an RGS school match (which got cancelled in any case), and so particular thanks to Ed Luff who only agreed to play at 8.20pm the previous evening to get us to 11 players.

In the end we lost narrowly today by 2-4 but I do feel that we should have had at least a draw from today's match.

We started the match brightly with Moley being a particular thorn in Lewes' side as we opened up their defence comfortably, but then, against the run of play, we conceded a sloppy goal after 10 minutes as Dec and Justus got in each other's way with the ball just trickling over the line. After 25 minutes, Phil was involved in a shoulder to shoulder tussle which resulted in a Lewes player falling awkwardly - you could immediately see something was wrong as one shoulder was 4 inches lower than the other. We then had a 15-20 minute delay while an ambulance was called with the diagnosis being a broken collarbone (I have sent our best wishes to the player concerned).

After the match resumed, it all went wrong for us in the minute before half time, during which we managed to concede twice, albeit to good goals, to make it 0-3 at half time. After half time, Lewes got on top and too often we gave the ball away in midfield and were reduced to long clearances from defence, but Justus, Dec, Chris, Steve and Will kept them out. Then in the final quarter, the balance shifted, and we started enjoying periods of pressure. Firstly, with 15 minutes left, a cool clearance from Dec found Moley on the left wing who passed it on to Ollie G in the centre who beat a couple of defenders and then the goalkeeper from the top of the D, and then with 5 minutes remaining, following another period of Woking pressure, Phil turned and shot right into the bottom corner to make it 2-3, and at that stage, a comeback was on the cards. However, with 2 minutes left, an apparently clean tackle by Ollie S was penalised by Lewes' umpire who allowed the Lewes player to run straight into the D and fire it into the roof of the net (final score 2-4).

Man of the match was Ollie G for continual running and harassing the opposition defence throughout the match, and helping to shift the balance of the match back in our favour.

And finally, thanks to Andy Pike for coaching the team today.