

## Match Report - Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> February

### Boys Under 14 Mercian League

#### Woking 1 Surbiton 5

The boys played a well disciplined Surbiton team in a Mercian South match. We started well with a combination of individual skills and team passing and pressured the Surbiton defence on several occasions. Surbiton, however, always looked threatening on their counter attacks as we tended to lose our shape and tried to tackle the ball carrier, leaving the opposition players free and able to pass to each other allowing them to by-pass our defenders. Both teams had a number of scoring opportunities in the first half, with Woking arguably having the better of these. However, neither side was able to convert these chances into goals and the first half ended with the score: 0-0.

In the second half our game play changed and while some good individual skills were displayed, we stopped playing as a team so Surbiton were able to break down our runs and launch their counter attacks, overwhelming our defenders with numbers and speed, scoring two goals in the first ten minutes of the start of the second half. While Will Calnan scored to make it 1-2, Surbiton continued to capitalise on our errors and came down our right hand side in waves. Despite some desperate defence, Surbiton overwhelmed us with numbers in the D and we inevitably conceded three goals.

While the final score was Woking - 1. Surbiton - 5, this was not a fair reflection of the overall game especially the way the boys played in the first half. Our lesson from this is we need to focus on the basics of passing, then moving into positions to receive the ball on attack and on defence being able to pick up and mark the opposition when they attack. Only by playing with all of our players will we be able to take on teams with older boys who can run faster or cover more distance with their longer legs.

In terms of the overall league positions, we can still finish second in this league and go through to the 1/4 play-off provided we beat Amersham & Chalfont on 28 March.

Comments from David:

- 1 our lack of fitness caused us problems in certain areas
- 2 we have to play as a team
- 3 our training session on Friday was poor as a result of lack of concentration and our second half performance replicated the training and my phrase of " we must train how we want to play" was brought home
- 4 we do not learn by winning and so now we can see the character of the squad.