

Match Report 23rd January 2010

Broadheath Central Dolphins (U9E) v Wythenshawe Amateurs Panthers

The Dolphins played an unbeaten Panthers team on Saturday 23rd January at Salisbury playing fields. Wythenshawe Amateurs had enjoyed a successful start to the season beating teams comprehensively on the way; they had scored 20+ goals on two occasions and conceded very few goals in their matches. However the Dolphins were also unbeaten and looking forward to the game, which was going to be difficult as we had only 7 players, which meant no substitutes, and were playing on an Under 10 pitch!

The first period got off to a slow start with both teams playing a patient game, but things got more exciting as the period progressed. The Dolphins played some neat football ensuring the ball was passed to team-mates and the larger space was used to its full. Half way through the period the Dolphins got a free kick which Jayden took hitting a great shot for goal. This was headed on by Tom C but unfortunately came back off the bar. The Dolphins continued to press and Jayden was clean through on goal hitting a cracking shot with thundered against the bar and back out, so unlucky. The first period ended 0-0.

The second period started as the first had ended with pressure from the Dolphins. The opposition had changed their goalkeeper at the break and this proved a good choice as he was brought into action on no less than 6 occasions where he denied us the opening goal. The pressure was mounting on their goal, but the chances weren't taken and this cost as the opposition made a breakaway and scored an unlikely goal; end of the second period at it was 0-1.

The third period started slowly as we were tiring a little, but we got a break after a period of pressure and Jayden made it 1-1 with a clinical finish. Our boys were now up for it and pressed for the second goal. The game was really open now and our keeper, Eddie, was required to make some great saves; the opposition were getting stronger as we tired. Eddie kept us level on a number of occasions and the defence played with determination ensuring all the attacks were repelled. We continued to push forward and pressure the Panther's defence who couldn't cope with the skill and directness of Jayden, Tom C, and Sam. With 5 minutes remaining we got the break: after hitting the post we continued to press and the ball fell to Jayden who slotted it into the back of the net, 2-1 Dolphins! We had chances to make it 3-1 but it never happened and we were caught on the break by the Panthers who, after valiant defending and goalkeeping, managed to sneak the ball into the Dolphins net, 2-2.

Shortly after the restart, the final whistle blew and the game ended 2-2. Both teams' unbeaten records intact, but it was a hard fought game. We could and should have won the game and if we had had players available who were unfortunately missing through injury I'm sure we would have won. Well done to all players from both teams for an exciting match, and the management were very impressed with the Dolphins' commitment and battling spirits. Keep it up lads and well done.

Man of the match went to Thomas H for this match, but it could have been any one of the seven players as they all played with great determination, skill, and a "never say die" attitude, but all played the match in a fair and respectful manner.

Next match is away at Sale United "C" on Saturday 30th January.