

Sunday 3rd May
Bearsted 0 Dartford 12

After failing to get the 3 points against Ebbsfleet, we had given ourselves an uphill task in having to turn around the 17 goal deficit on goal difference. Whilst we've hit double figures once before this season, this doesn't happen often and I cannot overstate just how big a task this is. We went into today's game, missing 2 of Thursday's back 4, players carrying knocks and players having to play out of position – just what you need when you're chasing the goals!! For those of you who haven't been there, Bearsted is a lovely, little ground with great facilities and we were looking forward to the match, despite our personnel set-backs. The game started and it was obvious that Dartford were going to give it their best shot of banging in some goals today. The first one came after 10 minutes, when JJ fired in and this was quickly added by a 2nd from the penalty spot, Danny Nash converted the kick after Danny Crouch had been upended. 10 minutes later, Frazer claimed his 1st of the day, when he finished from close range. It was at this stage that I started to sense that we maybe on to something with our change of formation and I must admit that the rest of the game became a bit of a blur as we were beginning to create chances at will. JJ added his 2nd before half-time and Crouchy added a 5th to make the half-time score 0-5. *At half-time, we spoke openly and frankly about whether we really believed that we could take advantage today and rack up even more goals. I stressed to the players that for them to keep scoring, they had to keep working and to continue to do what had got them 5 goals so far.*

The players were really up for the 2nd half and I think that they took to the field with a real self-belief that further goals were possible. As silly as it sounds, I actually grumbled a little at half time that we were trying to walk the ball into the goal rather than put our foot through the ball and boy was this taken on board. The only way to describe the 2nd half is by having you draw a mental picture of 2 defenders for Dartford having a complete freedom of their half while everyone else, particularly the home side were camped in the Bearsted penalty area. In summary, we added 7 goals in the 2nd half and I apologise for maybe getting the scoring order wrong but it was difficult to keep track of 12 goal scorers, as an when they went in. What I can say is that the two best goals of the game were scored by Frazer Bent, who exquisitely chipped the goalie with the outside of his foot from 15 yards and then by Luke White, who fired home from 25 yards. We added these 7 goals in the 2nd half all within 30 minutes, but the last 15 minutes remained scoreless, due to the entire Bearsted team, being happy to sit behind the ball.

We're now level on points but 5 goals behind Ebbsfleet. On Thursday and Sunday we have matches against the bottom and 3rd from bottom sides respectively. The one thing we can be sure of, is that we will push Ebbsfleet all the way, we can only affect our results and we are determined to go into the last game of the season ready to take advantage, should our rivals leave the door open.

Today's game was a joy to watch and I'm immensely proud in the way that the team has taken up the challenge. We are playing in the stadium on Thursday evening and I'm sure that the players will respond to the challenge and it would be fantastic to see as many of you there as possible.

Team:- Molloy, Nash, Walter (Duarte 65), Issuree, Eyers, Burman, Bent, Crouch ©, Jordan, Nye, White

Subs:- Duarte, E.Thomas, Sutherland

Goals:- Jordan (4), Bent (3), Crouch (2), White, Nash, Nye

MOTM:- Tom Eyers – brilliant 1st half heading performance.

