

Sunday 7th December 2008 – League

Welling Utd 0 Dartford FC 2

Weather:- Frosty!

This return to league action was seen as the opportunity to get some players some much needed minutes on the pitch. We haven't had a settled side yet this season due to injuries, representative football and call ups to senior squads, so it was good to put out a side containing players that are trying to force their way into the starting line up.

Having said that, I continue to have every confidence in which ever players I select. Mind you, when they took a look at the pitch I think that some of them were begging to be sub!! The pitch was frozen at one end and the game was in doubt right up until kick off, which had already been delayed by 30 minutes by the ref.

Dartford dominated the opening 15 minutes and should have had 2 or 3 goals from clear cut opportunities. As it was, Dartford had to wait until 35 minutes for the opening goal. Danny Crouch scooped the ball home through a crowd of players to add one more to his tally for the season. Chances came and went for both sides and to be fair, Welling could have equalised but for some wasteful finishing.

Half-time score 0-1. We spoke at half-time about trying to make the ball do the work on what was a very narrow pitch. We were finding it difficult to play football and we were also getting put on the back foot by the home sides' long ball tactics. We tried to combat this by re-iterating to players the importance of their role in this formation.

The first 20 minutes of the 2nd half was all Welling but due to their poor finishing Adam Molloy never had a save to make. We weren't playing at our best but Welling were creating chance after chance and an equaliser wouldn't have been unjust.

After 20 minutes of the half, Connor Heffernan replaced Luke White and 5 minutes later Danny Nash replaced Callum Nye. These changes seemed to add a bit more width to the game and we were able to hold on better to the ball in the attacking third. We seemed to get a hold of the game and the chances were drying up for Welling.

In the last 20 minutes, we could have easily scored another 3 or more goals with chances for Danny Crouch, James Jordan, Frazer Bent & Lewis Sutherland. But it took until the last kick of the game for us to put the ball into the back of the net for the 2nd time. Frazer collected the ball on the edge of the area and showed great strength to hold off the defender before putting the ball across the goalkeeper for a good finish.

2-0 didn't flatter us but it's only fair to say that both sides had plenty of chances. I think that the pitch was very boggy and didn't make playing football very easy and perhaps chances were wasted due to the conditions. This was our first clean sheet in 3 games and this was reflected in Billy Eves being voted man of the match. He was very commanding in the air and won a great many headers.

This week we're back to cup action when we entertain Ebbsfleet in the OneTwenty2 Challenge Cup. These are always good but tough games against Ebbsfleet. The winners of this game will go into the quarter finals.

Team:- Molloy, Evers, Eves, White, Heather ©, Crouch, Nash, Nye, Jordan, Bent, Sutherland

Subs:- Heffernan, Nash

Goals:- Crouch, Bent

MOTM:- Billy Eves – Very strong, defensive performance.



Photo by Dave Adkins

Billy Eves

Kent Youth League – Central Division table up to 8th December

	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1	Dartford	8	7	0	1	26	7	19	21
2	Corinthian	7	5	2	0	25	10	15	17
3	Ebbsfleet	5	4	0	1	20	9	11	12

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