

Sunday 8th March

Chatham Town 2 Dartford 2 – written by Andy Weeks

As has been the case this season, we knew that this wasn't going to be an easy game as very rarely has the same team beaten the same opponent twice. Chatham were a much improved side and we were fortunate enough to play this game on their main stadium.

We never got going in the first half and we found ourselves 1-0 down after about 20 minutes, when 3 attempts wasn't enough to get the ball away. The defending was poor and the ball was able to be crossed into the danger area with ease. Adam was left helpless with a close range effort and this was probably a fair reflection of the game.

We started to raise our game towards the end of the half, but we were definitely not at our best. Chatham hurried us all over the pitch and we found it difficult to settle into any rhythm. With a minute remaining in the half, Danny Crouch scored from the edge of the area, to send the sides in level at half-time. I don't think anybody could've complained about the scoreline.

Half – time score 1-1 - Half-time talk – I explained to the players that we hadn't got going yet but we were still well in the game. I also explained that the surface wasn't the best so I wanted them to shorten up the passes and keep the passes simple. The thought process was that an easier pass on a hard surface, would help us keep possession.

We started the 2nd half better, but it was the hosts that took the lead when the ref awarded a penalty for a challenge on the edge of the area. The spot-kick was scored to put the hosts 2-1 up. This seemed to be the kick up the back-side that Dartford needed. Changes were made with Callum Nye replacing Frazer Bent and Marco Duarte replacing Luke White. With about 20 minutes remaining, Crouchy got his 2nd goal of the game to level the scores. Dartford were on top now and could sense that 3 points were there for the taking. With 3 minutes remaining, Danny Crouch broke down the left side channel and cut the ball back for Callum Nye to head the ball into the goal. Unfortunately the linesman adjudged Callum offside and despite the ball having been played backwards, the goal was disallowed. This obviously caused a bit of consternation but some you win and some you lose.

We weren't out our best in this game but we did do enough to win it. We are now getting to the crux point of the season and I'm sure that all the leading teams will drop points. A point is better than none and we move on to Welling at home in the league on 15th March.

Team:- Molloy, Walter, Evers, Issuree, Eves, White, Heather ©, Nash, Crouch, Bent, Jordan

Subs:- Duarte, Nye, Sutherland

Goals:- Crouch (2)

MOTM:-



Danny Crouch