

Sunday 12th April Maidstone 1 Dartford 2

This was a game that afforded us the opportunity to exact some revenge for our early season exit at the hands of Maidstone in the FA Youth Cup. We were forced into 1 change which saw Lewis Sutherland in at left-back for the injured Luke White and Deren Ibrahim made a welcome appearance in goal.

Maidstone are a quick, physical side and don't give you any time on the ball. They work you tirelessly throughout the game and give you very little to feed off. Both teams started the game happy to test each other out but it was Dartford that looked the more threatening side and despite going close on several times, the first goal didn't arrive until 35 minutes. The ball went from in to out, went wide again and the ball in found Callum Nye 15 yards from goal, with very little of the goal to aim at given the number of bodies in the area. Callum tucked the ball away in the narrow side of the goal for a very welcome goal not only for the team but for Callum to put an end to his baron run. We couldn't capitalise on other chances and went in at **1-0** at half-time.

Half-time talk centred on keeping our shape, particularly at the back and making sure that we didn't give anything silly away. We were good value for our lead and I pressed home the point about working for each other as Maidstone still maintained a threat. Adam Molloy replaced Deren Ibrahim in the Dartford goal, and this was the only change made at half-time.

The 2nd half started with Dartford on the front foot and were creating plenty of chances. It took until the 60th minute, for Frazer Bent to put the ball home from close range after some good work on the right by Danny Nash and Jack Walter. We should have extended our lead further, but JJ's effort came back off of the cross bar with the goalkeeper well and truly beaten. Maidstone were still posing a threat and they scored at 70th minute when the Darts defence failed to stop the cross coming in and failed to close down the ball. This gave the home side a bit of belief and while they were happy to chase the game, we were happy to play on the break. Marco Duarte came on for Frazer Bent and his first bit of action saw him dent the post from a ferocious strike from within close range. The visitors held out for a deserved win and this is no more than their overall game warranted.

It was a pleasure to hear some of the kind comments from match officials and home supporters, as to the quality of our play today. It is always nice to have our players hard work rewarded in this way. Next week we visit Sevenoaks who I'm sure will be looking for some kind of payback for our 5-1 win in our previous encounter.

Team:- Ibrahim (Molloy 46), Walter, Sutherland, Eves ■ Issuree, Burman, Nash, Crouch, Jordan, Bent (Duarte 80), Nye

Subs:- Molloy, Heather, Evers, Duarte

Goals:- Nye, Bent



Jack
Walter -
MOTM

Under 18 Central Table

Pos	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1	Corinthian	18	14	2	2	49	17	32	44
2	Dartford	16	13	1	2	49	21	28	40
3	Ebbsfleet	13	11	0	2	47	14	33	33
4	Chatham	19	10	3	6	39	21	18	33