

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> October**

**Corinthian 2 Dartford FC 1 – Kent Youth League Central Division**

**Weather:- Sunny (much better than last week – shame the result wasn't!!!)**

This was the eagerly awaited game that matched 1<sup>st</sup> against 2<sup>nd</sup> place. The game was always going to be tight and going into the game I had the feeling that either team could win it.

The Corinthians pitch is very big and encourages teams to play good football on what is a perfect surface. There is a slope however, and the home side made good use of this during the first half. Dartford started a little sluggishly and the home side had a much better opening to the game. The Corinthian forwards were getting behind the Dartford defence far too easily and to be fair they started at a high tempo and got faster.

The first goal came, 20 minutes into the game, from a corner. One of the smallest players on the pitch had a completely free run and planted his header home without a visiting defender within 2 yards. This perked Dartford up a bit and the chances started to arrive for Dartford. First of all, Danny Crouch put one just wide of the top far corner and Callum Nye was unlucky on a couple of occasions when the home keeper preserved his sides lead. Dartford equalised on the 40<sup>th</sup> minute following an inswinging corner that was initially cleared but then crossed back in, Callum Nye beat the goalkeeper to the ball to put a brave header into an empty net. Given the creation of the chances this was about fair and Dartford had done well to have pulled themselves back into a game that they had started so uncharacteristically slow. No-one could have complained if Dartford had gone in ahead but the home goal keeper had played exceptionally. Half-time score 1-1

Half-time instructions were to get the ball down, get it played and to start to win some of the 50-50 balls that the home side seem to be making 70-30 balls in their favour.

The game was there for us to grab a hold of and the attitude of the players in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half, to be fair, was much more determined and competitive.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> half was a completely different game with wave, after wave, after wave of Dartford attacks. The goal keeper had kept up his form from the first half and pulled off some fantastic saves. Chances came and went for Callum Nye, James Jordan and Danny Crouch. The only difference between Dartford getting something or nothing from this game was the home keeper he pulled off one particular good save from a James Jordan volley but you know it's not your day when these chances aren't being taken. This was never better hi-lighted than when a deflection that had beaten the goal keeper all ends up was cleared off the line by a defender only to spin into the keeper's hands. Less than a minute later with about 5 minutes remaining, Corinthian attacked down their left and some average defending resulted in a goal bound effort coming back off the post but such was our luck the ball fell kindly for Corinthian to steal all 3 points. This was particularly difficult to accept given our domination of the 2<sup>nd</sup> half after having recovered from a shaky start. We controlled this game for an hour but came away with nothing. We will play a lot worse than this and win games. On another day, luck willing, we would have got something from this game and I can't believe that lady luck would be so cruel again!

Team:- Molloy, Walter, Sutherland, Ayoola, Eyers, Heather © (Heffernan 85), Nash, Issuree (Dent 55), Nye, Jordan, Crouch

Subs:- Bent, Eves, King,



**MOTM:- Jack Walter** – for covering the back so well to ensure that Dartford didn't give too much away during the Corinthian counter attacks.

Message from Clare!

Thanks go out to: Andre for always volunteering to run the line, Dave Adkins for taking the time out to take our team photos and to Belinda for our lovely water bottles - they really came in handy on Sunday, especially in the un-seasonal sunshine!!!

Next game:- Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> October – Guru Nanak vs Dartford FC – Away 11am kick off.

<http://www.dfc18.co.uk>