

**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2008 - OneTwenty2 Challenge Cup**  
**Dartford FC U18s 0 Ebbsfleet Utd U18s 1**  
**Weather:- Crisp and Dry...!**

In recent years our games with Ebbsfleet have always been tight, tense but entertaining. They never give you an easy game, so we went into this fixture, knowing that we would have to play well to come out on top.

Dartford had the bulk of the possession and created the more dangerous chances but the visitors goal stayed intact due to some finishing that made the goalkeepers job easy plus some outstanding goalkeeping by the Ebbsfleet No.1.

We were never under the cosch really but the longer the first half went on the more confident I became of getting a result but the teams went in at half-time with no-one having found the back of the net. It was pointed out to the players at half-time that we should be doing to Ebbsfleet exactly what they were doing to us. This was working hard in the centre of midfield and picking up all the 2<sup>nd</sup> balls while not allowing the Dartford side to settle on the ball. The 2<sup>nd</sup> half started much the same as the first with Dartford creating the clearer cut chances but that elusive goal just wouldn't come. With 10 minutes remaining and hopeful ball up the pitch into the feet of the forward left the Ebbsfleet striker 20 yards from goal. He was allowed to turn, and he lobbed the home keeper with ease.

Dartford pushed for an equaliser and the closest they came was when a Crouch header forced the visiting keeper to make an outstanding save. The home side also had a strong appeal for a penalty but the ref declined to award what looked a certain penalty.

The game ended at 0-1 and this was really a game we should have taken something from but when we did create chances we found ourselves up against an in-form keeper. Such is football and we now pick ourselves up for the trip to Saltdean in the John Ullman Cup.



**MOTM: Sean Heather –**  
**Worked hard and put himself about the pitch.**

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