

Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2009 – KCFA U18s Cup – Quarter Final

Dartford FC 3 Dover Athletic 0

Weather:- Wet

Due to the weather this game was switched to the community pitch at short notice. This is by no means a disappointment to us as we love the surface and it ensured that the game went ahead. We were all looking forward to this game as it was an opportunity to go one step further than last season. We changed our shape slightly for this game and due to this we made a couple of changes.

Dover started brightly and came close to scoring after 5 minutes when a well struck shot from 25 yards came back off the post. Perhaps the change of shape didn't help but we were definitely on the back foot early in the game, albeit the danger was coming from wide areas and we managed to restrict the pressure to long range efforts. Unfortunately for Billy Eves he picked up a knock and had to be replaced by Jack Walter. This was a minor inconvenience with Ashley moving over to centre back and Jack taking his place at right back. Both sides were creating chances at will but Dartford soon got the upper hand after about half an hour, when we created some pressure by way of successive corners, which were a result of some good defending by the visitors to combat some dangerous runs into the area. One of these runs, by Danny Crouch, resulted in him being brought down for a clear foul. The linesman awarded the penalty and after a break for tea and deliberation!, Danny Nash sent the keeper the wrong way to put the young darts 1 up.

***Half-time score:- 1-0. This was probably a fair reflection of the half as we were becoming quite dominant towards the end of the half. All that needed to be said at half-time was for the players to keep their shape, particularly in midfield as we were sometimes guilty of leaving our backline exposed. The players seem to take this on-board and with one or two minor adjustments, we took back to the field with a renewed sense of purpose.***

The 2<sup>nd</sup> half started with Dartford on the attack and within a minute the Darts had added to the score. A good square pass found Luke White and he coolly slotted the ball home to give us a bit of breathing space. 5 minutes later, Callum Nye picked the ball up 35 yards from goal and his run into the area ended with his shot coming back off the post for James Jordan to have the simplest of chances by tapping the ball into an empty net, making the score 3-0. This really knocked the stuffing out of Dover and relaxed the Dartford side. To their credit, the home side retained their shape and continued to push forward whilst ensuring that we stayed solid at the back. The visitors did have their chances, as did we, but Adam Molloy pulled off some good saves, one in particular with his feet, to ensure that we kept a clean sheet. We made some changes with 20 minutes to go with Connor Heffernan replacing Danny Crouch and James Jordan being replaced by Frazer Bent.

We now await the winners of the postponed tie between Tonbridge Angels and Faversham Town. All we know at the stage is that we're drawn away for this semi-final. Next week we return to league action when we visit Ebbsfleet. This is another game we eagerly look forward to playing as I think that both teams will be contesting top spot come the end of the season.

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

Subs:- Heffernan, Walter, Bent, Foster

Goals: Nash (pen), Jordan, White

MOTM:- Sean Heather (Shielded the back 4 very well)



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