

**Sunday 28th December 2008 – KCFA U18 Cup Competition – Round 4
Dartford FC U18's 3 Ramsgate FC U18's 0 - Weather:- Freezing!**

This was a much anticipated game to ensure that we got to at least the same stage as last year. As with all competitions, we want to improve on what was achieved last season. We knew it was not going to be an easy game as our opponents showed in a previous cup games that they were capable of getting a result when they beat Corinthians 3-2. We were down to the absolute bare bones today. This was for a number of reasons, some I can agree with, but some of the reasons given just don't sit well with football! I'm not going to mention any of the missing players as this result is all about the 11 that played.

We stuck with our usual formation albeit with Jack Walter filling in on the right hand side to allow the returning Karl Dent to take his place in the centre of midfield. We appear to be playing with a defence that are getting used to each other and the only concern with shape at the moment is the balance in midfield between defending and attacking. Ramsgate started strongly without really creating chances but we were definitely on the back foot for the first 15 minutes. We started to edge our way into the game but really all we were missing was the ability to challenge in the air. It was Dartford that forced the first save by either keeper but it wasn't long after this that Adam Molloy was called into action. After half an hour, a slight change was made with Jack and Frazer switching positions with Frazer going to the right and Jack playing as striker. 5 minutes later some controlled possession by the home side ended up with Frazer finding the ball at his feet about 10 yards from goal but at a fairly sharp angle. Frazer rifled the ball in at the near post to put Dartford 1 nil up and this was probably the first time you could really sense that we were on top. Ramsgate worked hard for the rest of the half but the visiting keeper was definitely the busier of the two. This isn't to say that Adam didn't have anything to do but what he did do he did well and he is fast becoming a dependable and mature keeper.

Half-time score 1-0 – This was one of the easier half-time team talks as I felt that we were getting on top and the game was ours to lose. We also spoke about the need to make challenges for everything but I also pointed out that I felt we had the pace and the passing ability in the side, to pass through and around our opponents.

The 2nd half started with Dartford attacking well and we were well in control when we won a free kick in the centre circle. Tom Eyers put the ball in the box and Jack Walter showed great skill to control the ball with his chest and cushion the ball past the keeper into the far corner. This seemed to put our opponents on the back foot and for the first time we started to dominate the game. We started to create chance after chance with both Jack Walter and Callum Nye going close to adding further goals. Jack can't feel hard done by firstly for his shot being cleared off the line onto the post and even more so when his shot from 25 yards came back off the angle of the post and cross bar. Callum came close on several occasions but despite good connections with all his efforts the goal keeper did well to thwart him with good positioning. The game was wrapped up when Frazer finished from close range to put us into the quarter finals. I was pleased for Frazer to get a couple of goals as it continues a good run for him in front of goal, but today he did it from a wider position and this is what the team needed. Special mention also has to go to Adam on another clean sheet.

This was a better performance than what it may look or sound like given that we had what we had on the day player wise, and it was only the natural goal scoring instinct of Frazer and the solid goal keeping by Adam that made the game comfortable. Every player played their part and each and every player contributed. We're due a few more players back next week and given that our training falls on New Years Day, we will be going straight into the game on Sunday, so it may be that some of the more valid absentees will have to wait for their next start.

We have Sevenoaks in the league next where we will look to extend our advantage at the top of the table. It's nice to go into the New Year with two Cup Quarter Final places in the bag and to still be in with a shout regarding the league. The lads can take a lot of credit for today's game and they have ensured that they have given themselves the best possible chance of achieving something in 2009.

**Team:- Molloy, Issuree, Eyers, Eves, Dent, Heather ©, Walter, Crouch, Nye, Bent, Sutherland
Goals:- Bent (2), Walter
MOTM:- Whole team for pulling together and achieving a great result when low on numbers!**