

Match Report

Antony vs Furlanesend 27/11/15

On Friday afternoon we travelled to Antony to play our first game of the year. The weather couldn't have been much worse, with strong wind and rain greeting us as we went onto the pitch. The first half started really well, everyone braving the weather and playing some great football. A free kick near the halfway line gave us the 1-0 lead as Jude expertly shot over goalkeeper and into the back of the net. We grew in confidence but at times left ourselves open at the back, with Antony quickly grabbing three goals from nothing, one of them was pure luck. Great tackles from Peter and Louie denied our opponents from going in on goal multiple times, as well as Nathan making some fantastic stops to keep us in the game. The first half was a battle of the midfields, and our pairing of Ruby and Brae played brilliantly, not being afraid to go into tackles and passing the ball around nicely to retain our possession of the ball. It was great to see skills that we had practised in training being used in the game. We made one substitution as Harry came on for Louie towards the end of the half, and was not afraid to run forward and take a shot on goal, coming very close several times. Just before half time we got another goal, this time from Alfie. A great clearance by Nathan set Alfie in on goal and an expert finish from our striker capped off a stunning counter attack. The goal gave us confidence and for the next few minutes we played well, but getting caught on the ball was an ongoing issue for us, conceding 2 unstoppable goals before the half time whistle. We went into half time 6-2 down but knowing full well we still had a chance in this game.

At half time I made it clear that getting the ball out of our area as soon as possible was a main priority as we conceded a couple of goals from that in the first half. Brae, who had a played fantastically in the first half, came off for a rest whilst Louie replaced him in midfield and played equally well.

It certainly showed that everyone had paid attention to what I had said during the interval, with us dominating the first stages of the second half. Our dominance showed when Alfie notched us 2 more, he continued to cause havoc to the defence and 2 well taken goals put us back in the game. One, a superb free kick into the bottom corner, a perfect way to cap off a hat trick. However, it seemed throughout the game that when we scored, Antony would come back at us, and so they did again, scoring 2 more goals in quick succession to regain their 4 goal lead over us. We had the wind on our side this half and this certainly showed as Jude netted his second goal of the game from deep inside his own half, a long punt up field bounced over the goalkeeper and into the net, sparking big celebrations from the whole team. This time we didn't concede straight after scoring, we continued to dominate the half, Brae came back on for Peter who made excellent passes and tackles throughout the game. Our team bombarding Antony's defence with attack after attack. Harry, Louie and Alfie all came close to scoring but all narrowly missed the target before we scored what was the goal of the game. A fantastic team goal involved good passing football down the left wing from Harry, Ruby and Jude before a fantastic cross saw Alfie fly in with a diving header which flew into the bottom corner of the goal. It was like watching Brazil play, unbelievable football.

As the game entered the last ten minutes we were pushing forward knowing that we could be punished on the counter attack, and so we were, despite the efforts of Jude and Nathan we conceded to what was a great goal from our opponents. Though the game was coming

to an end Antony still had time to notch two more. A fantastic header from a corner, and a lucky goal as a shot rebounded off the post, hitting the unfortunate Louie on the back of the head to divert the ball into the goal.

The full time whistle blew and it finished 11-6 to the home side, though the score really did not reflect how well our team played, dominating Antony for large majorities of the game. We will have to focus on our defensive work over the next few weeks, but it's clear that scoring goals is not a problem for us. Thank you to the parents who came along and supported the team through the wind and rain, always encouraging the team no matter what the score. Finally well done to everyone who played, you all put in 100% and deserved more than the score line says.

Tom