

Sunday 13th April 2008

Dartford FC U18's 3 Erith Town FC U18's 4 🤨

This was always going to be a tough game with Erith Town looking set to win the title. Our U18's were looking to continue their recent run of good form and were up for a challenging game. Dartford took the lead in the first 10 minutes when a great through ball by Crouchy found Matthew Man who showed great pace in beating the goal keeper to the ball and calmly nipping it past him and into the empty net. Dartford were well on top from this stage and Man got his second goal when he fired home a powerful shot from a short played free kick from 30 yards out. The home side had further chances to increase their lead most notably for the hard-working Callum Nye who was unfortunate on more than one occasion not to get on the score sheet. Around about the 30 minute mark, Dartford were caught in possession in their left-back area and the resulting cross was volleyed home to make it 2-1. Minutes later the score became 2-2 when the more physical strength of the Erith Town 2nd years was made to count. Just when we thought things couldn't get any worse, we conceded a penalty when Ashley Issuree was adjudged to have brought down an Erith Town forward. Despite having to take the penalty twice, Erith went in at the break 3-2 up.

The half-time discussion was all about trying to replicate that half of football again but without the mistakes. It was stressed that the side had played very well to get themselves ahead but again shot themselves in the foot with individual mistakes.

2nd half started in much the same vein as the first with both sides looking to score the all-important next goal. Unfortunately this fell for Erith Town when a mix up at the back allowed an Erith attacker to lob the Darts goalkeeper from the edge of the area. To the Dartford sides credit we never stopped playing football and threw everything at the visitors but they are not going to win the league for nothing and we had to wait until very late in the game to get our and Matthew Man's 3rd goal. A great kick by Ibrahim found Man in a one on one with the goalkeeper with the ball bouncing between them. Man was much the braver of the two and deservedly got his head on the ball to score his hat-trick, which was very much warranted by his performance.

Despite the score line the home side can be very proud of their performance and for never giving up. They played with real heart and spirit and were never out of this game. The visitors are a very good side but I felt we were more than a match for them all over the field but on the day we just made too many errors at the back and this was reflected in the result.

Team: Ibrahim, Walter, Sutherland (Jordan 80), Forbes, Issuree, Baiden (Heffernan 70), Crouch, Keenleyside, Nye, Man, White (C)
Subs: Senington (GK)

Goals & MOTM: Matthew Man – Hat-trick



But he was pushed very close by Harley Forbes who made two of the best tackles that I've seen all season.

Next match:- Sunday 20th April – Dartford vs Deal Town – 11:00 k/o