

MATCH REPORT

Surrey Junior Sunday County Cup R1

30th October 2022

Coulsdon Athletic FC 3 – 1 Glendale FC

There was more football this weekend at the famous Mount Pavilion just off Corrigan Avenue CR5 2QU, and whilst we might not have a license, they're selling teas and coffees at very reasonable prices, along with snacks, etc, to keep you warm, full and content whilst enjoying the football. (Yep, I'm on commission).

With the rain falling, today saw the table topping Coulsdon Athletic play bottom of the table side Glendale, and I had grown a little concerned over the week. There was a lot of confident chat in the squad, not about if we win, but by how much. That kind of chat can be dangerous and distracting from the focus we need every game. And I made it abundantly clear how I felt about that. We have the same focus, no matter who the opposition are, if anything we change to be cautious about some matches, but never, ever are we over confident.

The game kicked off and within minutes, we did show that we were taking the opposition lightly. Our passing was complacent, our movement was too high up top, we weren't putting the graft in to the drop deep to defend to the dirty work, and our possession was well, pony compared to the last few weeks. Yep, we had got over confident. I may be being slightly harsh but when you've set the bar high, well, you can allow yourself to expect a certain type of performance. But, hey, the lads are human, so this will happen from time to time. So now it was just how was this going to play out??

Whilst we were creating and getting into some good positions, a boss of possession saw us get caught on the break a couple of times. Make no mistake, Glendale can play, and I was surprised that they were bottom of the table. But they could definitely play. Maybe we were also allowing them time to play.

We created a couple of good positions, where after being fouled we had some good positions for free kicks. However these were overhit and we did not take advantage of them. Glendale put together a decent move that saw a ball work behind our defence, and they're striker pounced on it in the box - but could he get a shot off? The swing of his leg in the rain sodden ground saw mud fly up from the studs of his boot as he connected to the ball... it looked a certain shot on target - but hang on. All of a sudden appeared the long leg of a certain centre back sliding in from nowhere - and the shot was blocked. Yep, Johnny made it back. Of course he did. If you're gonna score against the Black and Blue - then you're gonna have to earn there right.

It then became a bit of a see-saw game, not necessarily clear cut chances but no one stamping their authority either. This was disappointing.

On 20 mins we started to play a bit of football. The ball retrieved from deep yet again by the ever present Johnny, and he fed a lovely slide rule pass in the wet grass to Nath. Nath first touch lay off wide to Georgie. He beats his man and carries the ball forward. A pass in field to Rob send the ball wide to Mikey. Mikey runs towards their box, and tries to square the ball that gets sent out for a corner. That is more like it Coulsdon.

MATCH REPORT

Nath steps up to take the corner, swung it in well this time. There was a bit of ping pong, but Josh steadied himself and with a swift swing of his trusty right peg it was in the back of the net. 1-0!! That's more like it lads!! Now could we settle please?....

Although we started to assert ourselves in the game a bit more, our sluggish start meant we were about 6/10 at best. Soooo frustrating.

We then had another attack which ended up with Nath delivering a cross that presented our Vice Skipper with a great chance - and he made no mistake! Nice one Georgie - some space to breathe? Were we back on track? The half ended and it was 2-0 the CAFC at the break.

A quick and easy chat about hard we were making it for ourselves and could we improve? Could we start to play the ball in a more controlled way? Hit the feet of the wingers - or had we allowed ourselves (although winning) to get stuck in a rut?

The second half didn't improve too much to be fair, again, it was a bit of a see-saw half. We wasted our chances when we had them with some pretty off target shooting, whilst when our oppo's had the chances they were working Xander. Not too many chances, but it was concerning - and we were right to be concerned.

It was strange, we weren't exactly terrible, far from it, but our usual passing play wasn't there, and it was more about some isolated moments rather than an overall poor display. We were 2-0 up after all.

Hang about, a chance down our right hand side fell to Glendale, and they despatched the chance wide of Xander. 2-1. That was coming to be fair to Glendale.

A couple of changes saw firstly Alfie make his debut and then Murf go up top, more as a false 9 than out and out centre forward, with Duggs and Josh making way, and then Dan being replaced and Duggs back on the pitch. A great move on about 75 mins saw the ball move along the deck from one side of the pitch to the other, and with Nath having the ball at his feet in a central position, again kept the ball on the deck and slid it in to Alfies feet. With a dip of the shoulder and a burst into the box, he just got ahead of the defender. I was staring down the line of the ball, and he got his shot off quickly. And drilled it low. The moment it left his boot it was in the corner. I could see it. The keeper dived, but in vain. We had our two goal cushion again, and Alfie had his debut goal!! 3-1!!

It was then left for Duggs to have a chance after a beaut of a run to the edge of the box, and for Johnny and the back four to see the game out in a more controlled way.

The hard working Kunz, Rob and Raff, roasted in deep midfield positions, with Kunz staying on for the 90, and provided a sound partner to the other two rotating, and all three had sold performances.

We saw out the game, with us pressing well from the front and winning a lot of aerial balls thrown up by Glendale by the end.

Man of the Match was a close run thing between Johnny, Kunz and George, but Johnny edged it deservedly for the pint in the boozier after the game.

MATCH REPORT

So all in all, we had a game where we learned a lesson without it costing us a point. That lesson being don't underestimate your oppo's, pay them due respect by not thinking you've won a game without even kicking the ball.

That won't happen again.

All in all, we preserved our 100% record, and remained top of the table, with still 2/3 teams giving a good chase already.

Final Score: CAFC 3 Glendale 1

Goals: Josh, George and Alfie

Assists: Nath (2)

We march on and we have Newdigate away next in the league. We have already beaten them once - but they'll be no one underestimating the importance of focus again. I guarantee that.

