

MATCH REPORT

League Senior Cup R1

2nd October 2022

Coulsdon Athletic FC 1 – 4 Middyay FC

It was Cup Weekend this weekend, and in true Coulsdon style, because of numbers there were five teams in the draw that got byes - was one of them us? Of course not.

So, did we get a nice and easy draw? Nope.

Did we instead draw the team ripping up the top division, beating teams 10-1 in the league and sitting on top of that division with a 100% record? If league position dictates how hard the draw is, then getting that team would be the toughest challenge.

Today saw Coulsdon Athletic in the Senior Cup. Yep, you guessed it, drawn at home against the Middyay Sun, the team ripping up the top division, beating teams 10-1 in the league and sitting on top of that division with a 100% record. Quelle surprise. We never get an easy draw, in fact the toughest draw possible.

Today saw us therefore change our formation to try and see if we could try and contain our opposition, and see if any opportunities come our way, and if they did, we had to be clinical. All we could do was our best.

We started with an experienced team and with a 5-3-2 formation. We just had to start comfortably and confidently.

From the kick off our oppo's were strong as expected. They moved the ball well, and quickly. We were quickly under pressure, but our midfield of Haz, Nath and Raff, were battling right from the start. If the oppo's did breach that line, the back 5 stood strong, with Charly, Billy and Johnny providing that proverbial brick wall.

Make no mistake, this wasn't all one-way traffic, both Rob and Liam were making progress on the wings and feeding both Duggs and Josh and we were creating our own half chances.

Our oppo's were still knocking on the door, but if any shots were fired in, then Xander was dealing with them. He is a rock in goal. However, the first goal came, and sometimes good players not only find the half space they need, but they also have the technique to get a clinical shot off, and that's exactly what happened. 1-0 down to a great finish.

But we could hold our heads up, we were battling with the best team in the league - littered with ex-pro's - and they were working hard for the lead.

We just needed a bit of belief. That's the thing, our team is also full of not just talent, but with drive, determination and passion. I was confident we would carve something.

We won ourselves a free kick into the oppo's half and we swung a ball into the box. The ball was half cleared by their defence, and we fed the ball wide to Charly who was still up there. He put a beautiful square ball across the box - and there was Josh to stick the ball in the

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net and it was 1-1!! They were complaining of offside in the build up, but the ref didn't agree, and he gave the goal. Absolutely fantastic, and no more than what the boys deserved. The Midday weren't used to this type of performance against them. I was loving what we were doing.

However shocked, the oppo's were quickly back on their game, and putting us under pressure. Again when they did create an opening Xander stood strong, and kept the game level. A smart low save saw him tip the ball around the post for a corner. The ball was swung in and it was met with header looping the ball up and away from our goal, but not clear. Raff jumped with their attacker, and the ref felt like he made a back for him and their player went over. Penalty given - and it was harsh. Very soft pen in the context of the game. Despatched and now 2-1 down. Within 60 secs of the restart, Rob burst down our left, and managed to drive a wicked ball across the face of their goal along the 6 yard box, but it just evaded both Josh and Liam, so close to 2-2!! Absolutely gutted, would have been great for the lads to level twice. Just before half time we conceded again, and so went into the break 3-1 down.

I still felt that if we could create a chance and get back to 3-2 we would then see what happened.

Unfortunately, the second half was tough. We picked up a couple of injuries to Nath, Ry, Rob and Charl, but we still kept them out, but our chances were reducing so it was tough to find a way back. With about 15 mins to go, we were so unlucky to concede a fourth. It did give our younger players a valuable bit of experience with Lige, Shawn, Murf and Jakey getting about 10 minutes each. A bleeding tough 10 minutes it was as well.

The ref blew his whistle and we had gone out the Senior Cup fighting. With some very positive words of encouragement from our oppo's at the end, we could leave The Mount with our heads held high. They had not spanked us, they didn't intimidate us, they battled for the win as well. Right now, we played to Div 1 level, and that was the positive for us. That was a benchmark on where our league form could rise to.

Unlucky fellas, you had two very proud managers in Moz and myself, and whilst not wanting to be happy with a loss ever, we could accept this begrudgingly.

Final Score: CAFC 1 Midday Sun 4

Scorer: Josh

Assist: Charly

CAFC - making us all proud.

FOOTBALL CLUB