

MATCH REPORT

Surrey Junior Sunday County Cup R1

23rd October 2022

Battersea Ironside FC 1 – 3 Coulsdon Athletic FC

Today saw us play in another cup competition, this time in the Junior County Cup - and you know what I said about never getting an easy cup draw? Well, this time we were drawn away to the holders from last year, Battersea Ironsides, so yep, we really get it easy don't we?! One, we will get a plum draw....

This time we were not going to set up in a negative or overly defensive manner as we did against the Midday Sun, but instead opted for a 4-3-3, being the best of both worlds, we have attacking options but also protection.

This was on paper, a proper tough game.

Two young players got their debut starts today in midfield, with Murf and Shawn playing each side of Haz, with our rock solid back four of Charl, Billy, Johnny and Liam in front of Xand.

Nath played a different position as our No 9 with Thomps and Mikey operating each side of him.

We kicked off and told ourselves to be positive, take the game to Ironsides.

Thomps was involved quite soon in the build up play we had, and was an immediate threat on our left, giving their right back nightmares on the wet slippery pitch.

On the 10 minute mark, we had an attack through Thomps, and he surfed across the pitch, no matter what the conditions that ball is glued to his plates. He squared a ball to Nath, who swivelled and stuck a low hard drive into the keepers bottom right near post. Too much power on it, and the keeper couldn't keep it out. We'd gone 1-0 up and it was thoroughly deserved!

Around the 20 minute mark, our skipper Haz picked up the ball and ran from midfield, couple of dips of the shoulder got him past two, then a little juggle left and right of the ball, got him past three on the edge of the box, and now he was in on goal.... this could be spesh. As he got free and was about to pull the trigger and late lunging tackle came in and stopped him in his tracks. Problem was, he didn't make contact with the ball - penalty!!!! Nath stepped up for his second of the game, struck the ball, but the keeper made a good save - only for it to rebound to Nath to stick it in. Football can be cruel - do I care? not at all - I've many go against me over the years. 2-0 and daylight. In terms of score the weather was bleeding terrible and no sunlight in sight. Just rain.

We had a great momentum to the performance now, and a ball got picked up in midfield from Haz, he slotted the ball through to a central Nath, he swivelled and knocked a ball through to Thomps, who'd switched tot he right wing, he darted into the box and sent a rocket top bins. Oh. My. Gosh. 3-0 up away from home to the Cup Holders. Admittedly they

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had a depleted squad of 12 players, but here we are popping them back at the desks at school and teaching them a lesson. 3-0 within 30 minutes.

We knew they'd respond. And we did get something back from them. They had a bit more of the ball and we sat back a bit - well we we did have a comfortable lead and didn't need to over commit. However, it was still a mistake that gave them a goal. A short clearance presented an easy chance, and we were pegged back to 3-1. Shame because we deserved a clean sheet for this first half performance.

But we had to put into perspective that we were walking off the pitch with a 3-1 lead and two of the youngsters making a start for the first time, and playing the cup holders.

With changes made at half time and Kunz, Galls, Ry and Lige on, we kicked off the second half, the shape was kept the same, however. If it ain't broke and all that.

The oppo had one danger man in particular coming into the game, and so I asked Galls to man mark him. Turned out he was ok with time on the ball, but with Big Bad Galls breathing down his neck, we had dealt with - just wasn't the same danger.

We then played the second half out, it was a bit scrappy but we did still create. We had several opportunities to add to our lead, and Xand had a couple of easy saves to make, but when the ref put the whistle to his mouth, we had done it. We had gone through to the next round of the cup and knock the holders out in their own back garden.

This season just gets more and more interesting.

You know its true - we're black and blue.

Final Score: Battersea Ironsides 1 CAFC 3

Goals: Nath (2) Thomps

Assists: Thomps, Haz and Haz won pen.



FOOTBALL CLUB