



League Cup Match: 08-11-09

Match Report 8

Man of the Match: Joe Hall

Special Mention(s): Luke Foster / Richard Lyons / Harry Brown

Goal Scorer(s): Luke Foster 2, Nick Gallagher 1, Ciaron Lyons 1

Pinewood Panthers 3 CPR Spartans 4

First Half:

Ahead of the match we saw a few late "arrivees" and so a full squad warm up was not possible, however, it's probably worth noting whatever it was the lads put on their cornflakes, as straight from the whistle, the Spartans were on fire. Within seconds, the ball was played out to Joe on the right wing. Joe sent over a cross and Luke got on the end of it to put us 1 up, 0-1. So for the first time this season, we were leading within a minute of the kick-off. The game then settled in to a pattern, and whilst we were playing the better football, it was clear that Pinewood were not going to be a pushover. Over the next 10 mins we saw Ciaron battle his way in to 2 x 1-on-1's, only to see both chances go narrowly wide. With 15 mins gone we see a ball played over the top by Pinewood. For whatever reason, we saw a little indecision between James and his back line, which sees the ball come across to a Pinewood striker just outside our area. He looks up and puts away a terrific shot in our top corner, 1-1. Within 2 mins we saw Joe get himself on the ball and put Ciaron through for a 1-on-1, which finished with a shot just going wide of their post. With 20 mins on the clock, Liam masterfully chips the ball over the top out to Nick on the corner of their 18 yard box, he takes the ball in his stride and puts his shot in to the far corner of Pinewood's goal, 1-2. As the scoring suggests, so Pinewood come back at us again and it's fair to say that Joe, Alex, Andrew, Harry & Ed had their work cut out, keeping Pinewood threats to a minimum. We saw further strikes on their goal from Ciaron and Nick, and support from Sam, but the score remained locked at 1-2 for a further 15 mins. As the half got older so Pinewood were becoming more and more of a threat. They just missed a chance to equalise 3 mins before the break, but undeterred, they came straight back at us again, and with a ball through the middle their centre forward just managed to get to the ball 1st, and put away the equaliser, 2-2.

Second Half:

Pinewood obviously buoyed by their 2nd goal (always a good time for a goal, just before half time) kept us pretty much pinned in our own half for most of the first 10 minutes. We then saw Alex make a really good clearance. Ciaron alive to it, ran on to the ball, took it into their area, rounded the keeper and struck the ball with his left foot, only to see the effort just miss the far post. Whilst Ciaron's luck was out, his self belief and determination seemed to radiate through the team and we started to regain our form and discipline. With 18 mins on the clock Richard played the ball out to Luke on the left wing. Luke carried the ball to the corner of the area and chipped in a great finish, 2-3. Pinewood, as ever, they came straight back at us and created an early chance, which James was equal to. We then watch as Nick and Luke create an opportunity, where Luke chips the keeper only to see his effort rebound off the cross bar. In keeping, the ball is then played down our end. Their number 9 manages to deliver a cross, and we just turned off fleetingly as a Pinewood striker reacted first to a loose ball and scored to level the score, 3-3. So here we were again, all square, and with only 12 mins left on the clock. Within a minute, we watch Ciaron race on to another through ball, and coolly round the keeper, strike the ball with his left foot only to see his effort hit the post and rebound into Nick's path. Nick choosing to make sure the ball stayed in the net, went for power, and sadly, the ball flew over the bar. Moments later we saw Richard seize the initiative. Roughly 35 yards from goal, with the ball at his feet he suddenly bursts forward and races into the area, only brave keeping denied Richard from possibly scoring the winner. Every so often we are fortunate to witness a eureka moment. With only 2 mins left on the clock, after some great battling on the edge of Pinewood's area, Ciaron and Luke bring about an opportunity for Ciaron who somewhat poetically, puts the opportunity away with style to secure our winner, 3-4.

Man of the Match: Joe Hall

Joe, your commitment, focus and desire, together with the right attitude and determination was all there to be seen for this game, a die hard performance you can be proud of. You displayed great strength challenging for the ball on the ground and in the air and your confidence to go forward more on supporting runs was a whole lot better. I was really pleased with your all round game, you have been improving little by little every week, but you have just now taken your game up to the next level, a bench mark confident performance I now need every week, consistency is the next hardest level, very well played Joe, keep it going.

Special Mentions: Luke Foster

Luke, your workrate was second to none, tracking back was spot on, awareness to follow your marker with defensive duties was good. Your fitness levels are certainly paying off, your added strength and pace with positive runs down the wing put you into threatening positions gave you options to cross or have a go at goal. Two very well taken goals, with only the crossbar denying you a hat-trick. Really happy with your performance out there, we now have an outlet, a new position that gives the team balance with width. Well done Luke.

Special Mentions: Richard Lyons

Richard, I look at you as the most versatile player in the team, left back, right back, center back and midfield and I'm sure if asked, you would have a go up front as well. What ever position I put you in, you don't grumble or moan, you just get on with it and play to the best of your ability and to be honest, you are very competent in all. Another example this week, you started in defence and finished in midfield, your are a great credit to the team and a great asset for me to have, you are growing with confidence and stature and I am now starting to see a much stronger confident robust player, well played Richard.

Special Mentions: Harry Brown

Harry, A really good solid display, your first time tackles were spot on, you looked a lot sharper and you played with more belief in your own ability, your movement up and down the line, supporting the winger was great to see, also your distribution of the ball was really good. First time ball up the line with support is how you played your game and that is exactly how I want you to play, well played Harry.