



Soccer

Junior Colts Football 2002

This was the first season that the Under Tens were restricted to seven-a-side matches, and in my opinion the move was very beneficial, allowing the players greater participation in the game and encouraging the development of ball skills.

With a small number of boys to select from and a formidable fixture list ahead, it was vital that everyone played to their full potential. In the main the players rose very well to the challenge and there were some fine performances during the season.

The first match was lost 1-4 to New Beacon. This was a respectable start against a much bigger school, with Calum Marris playing well in goal and James Mursell as always tackling anything that moved.

After much thought the coach decided that Calum's energy and stamina would be better employed in a midfield role, and he played with great gusto in that position for the rest of the season. Tom Harvey kindly volunteered to take over as goal keeper and he proved to be an inspired choice, reading the game intelligently and making many vital saves.

The second match was against St. Andrews and this was rather a disappointing performance. An early goal was conceded and we never really got a foothold in the match.

The St. Bedes result was much more encouraging, with Vinehall recovering from a 1-3 deficit to draw 3-3. The key factor was two goals from the talented William Howard-Smith who hit top form in this match and maintained it for the rest of the season.

Our next fixture was against Ashdown House. Vinehall were second best in the early stages, but fought back strongly from a goal down to snatch victory. Another two goals here from WHS, including a powerful free-kick.

The final match was at Newlands, where once more an early goal was conceded, but we soon found our stride and ran out convincing winners. Hat-tricks were scored by WHS and Edward Bridge. Edward played like a tenacious terrier throughout the season.

Excellent contributions were also made by our two rugged defenders, Warat Thavisin and Richard Rogers who tackled strongly and showed good skill when time allowed.

It was very pleasing to see the improvement made by the team during the season and I'm sure they will adapt successfully to eleven-a-side football next September.

C. Higgins

Results 2002.

New Beacon (away) lost 1-4
Holmewood House (home) lost 1-4
St. Andrews (away) lost 0-6
St. Bedes (away) drew 3-3
Ashdown House (home) won 2-1
Newlands (away) won 8-2

Scorers: W.Howard-Smith 7, Edward Bridge 5, C.Marris 2, R.Rogers 1.



Vinehall School

2002-2003