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AROUND THE GROUNDS

Upcoming:

As it is ANZAC day next Saturday, there are no games scheduled. However there are lots of games scheduled for Sunday, including our Premier League boys who are playing on Gannons 6 – Reserve Grade kicks off at 1pm and First Grade at 3pm. Our Premier League Women are also at home, kick off 3pm on Gannons 4. Come down and support our top teams if you're looking for something to do.

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Match Results:

Saturday					Sunday				
AG/Div	Home Team	H	A	Away Team	AG/Div	Home Team	H	A	Away Team
AA/C1	Lugarno	3	1	Connells Point - 18's	AAW/B	Lugarno	8	1	Connells Point
AA/C2	Lugarno	1	4	Connells Point	O35/C	Lugarno	2	2	Penshurst West
AA/D	Lugarno	1	1	Hurstville Glory	PL1/1	Sans Souci	3	1	Lugarno
AA/E	Lugarno (2)	6	3	Sans Souci - U18's	PW/AAW/A	Banksia Tigers	3	2	Lugarno
AA/E	Kogarah Waratah	2	3	Lugarno (1)	U12G	Banksia Tigers	1	2	Lugarno
AA/G	Lugarno (1)	13	1	Kogarah Waratah (1)	U13/A	Lugarno	1	7	Connells Point
AA/G	Forest Rangers	0	0	Lugarno (2)	U13/C	Kogarah Waratah	2	2	Lugarno
PL1/1	Banksia Tigers	1	2	Lugarno	U14/B	Sans Souci	1	6	Lugarno
PLR/R	Banksia Tigers	2	2	Lugarno	U14G	Banksia Tigers	0	1	Lugarno
U13/A	Hurstville ZFC	1	2	Lugarno	U15/B	Lugarno	3	0	Oatley RSL
U13/C	Lugarno	2	6	Connells Point (1)	U16/A	Lugarno	0	1	Hurstville City Minotaurs
U14/B	Lugarno	4	3	Penshurst West	U16G/A	Lugarno	8	0	Bexley North
U15/B	Hurstville Glory	7	0	Lugarno	U16G/B	Lugarno	4	1	Ramsgate RSL
U16/A	Lugarno	2	0	Sans Souci (2)	U17/B	Sans Souci (2)	1	6	Lugarno
U17/B	Lugarno	14	0	Oatley RSL (2)					
Friday									
O45/A	Lugarno	1	3	Forest Rangers					

Match Reports:

6 Bee 3 v Hurstville Glory

Saturday 11th April

What an exciting first game of the season! It was a miserable morning and we were down a few players, but our fantastic little crew of 4 - Emma, Catherine, Oli and Charlie had an awesome game. Everyone played so well with no subs and tried their hardest. Congratulations to Catherine on being Player of the Match for our first game of the season.

Looking forward to our season ahead - Go Under 6B3s!

6 Bee 6 v Hurstville Minotaurs

Introducing U6Bee6:

Joseph is gifted with an explosive burst of speed that will have the opposition stumbling in his wake. One to watch.

Charlie has the knack of always being in the right place at the right time and never takes a backward step. A real asset to the team.

Victoria - Good things come in small packages. Victoria buzzes around the play with a big kick and an accurate pass. Not to be underestimated.

Billy is our ball winner in the middle of the park, chasing down everything that moves. A lovely technique that is sure to attract the interest of bigger clubs.

Will has the drive and enthusiasm to lift his team-mates to new heights. A force to be reckoned with on the pitch.

Eamon dribbles the ball through defences like they're not there. A nose for goal and hair like fire.



8 Bee 2 v Connells Point

Hooray! We played our first game of the season at Quarry Reserve at South Hurstville and won!



Our team were very disappointed last week because the playing field was closed. Next week is ANZAC Day, so the season is off to a slow start.

This was the first time the players got used to a bigger field where there is a lot more running, so in our spare time we should go for a 40 minute run or jog to get fitter and faster.

This is the first time that we had a goalie. Our players all have to take a turn at being the goalie for one half of the game. Jack and Cooper have had their turn, and next game, the coach will appoint another two, and the next game another 2 until everyone has had a turn.

Goalies have a big square marked in front of the goal posts. Inside that area the goalie can pick up the ball. But, when he kicks, it must be placed on the ground

first. Or, the goalie can roll it out. Try to kick or roll it to one of your players who is not marked.

Max, Cooper and Patrick all scored good goals, and Connells Point scored one goal.

Most of our players were playing too close together today. Shannon, our coach, wants you to spread out, and if you see an opposition player on his own, stand near him - that is called marking a player. If someone on his team passes him the ball, then you can fight him for that ball.

Max was very busy all day, attacking and also defending - he was full of energy and was so hungry for the ball I thought he was going to eat it!

Well done Max! I thought that Clark and Lachy made some useful kicks, but you need to follow through and regain possession. Rex and Samuel were in there trying hard and will improve as they get used to the game.

Jack was only playing for 10 minutes but was an impact player. He made at least one goal save and long attacking run down the sideline.

Lugarno, you all played very well as a team and we are all proud of you.

9 Bee v Peakhurst United

Goal scorer: Perry 2

POTM: Callum



The full team lined up against Peakhurst on Saturday and what a fantastic game we had. Both teams were evenly matched and there were some great plays made on both sides.

One highlight came early. A huge kick by an opposition player saw the ball go very high in the air and come down around midfield right above Anthony, who promptly made a perfect header to send the ball back to where it came from, almost at the same height. The supporters on both sides were amazed, as was the coach! Another highlight

came early in the second half with Peri's first goal. The goal was impressive, but not as entertaining as the post goal celebration where Peri put together an 'airplane' move followed by a running double cartwheel.

The goaltending by Willis was again superb and he backed it up in the second half with some very good attacking runs and some neat dribbling. He was backed up by Ashton and Cameron who both had some close chances. Bailey, Sebastian and Emily held defence and midfield support but it was Callum's day - he deserves our player of the match award. He was everywhere in defence and attack, making some last minute key saves, great clearing kicks and a won a vast majority of battles for the ball.

It was a closely contested game and the even score at the end of the match was a fitting result. Great job team, see you all at practice.

9 Fox v Kogarah Waratahs

Goal scorer: Emmanuel Elazzi / Lucy Finn / Owen/Anthony

POTM: Nicholas Puckeridge

The Foxes headed to Scarborough this week and after what felt like a game of the Amazing Race, the entire team arrived right on time for kick off. With Hunter joining the team for the first time this year, the Foxes started the game confidently.

Unfortunately, Mitchell and Tom were unavailable for our game this week, but the remaining Foxes were pumped for their first win of the season

Emmanuel scored early with a long range cracker to the top right hand corner of the goal. Celebrations continued to roll again soon after, when Owen also had a long range shot that Anthony provided coverage of the ball to ensure it made it all the way to the net. Two nil up the Foxes were looking good.

Daniel and Owen ran their hearts out, attacking at every opportunity. Michael and Hunter defended well to shut down Kogarah's momentum. Our Man of the Match Nick followed coach Chris and Hamish's instructions to a tee, chasing down the opposition and defended well.



Lucy provided a buffer on the score board, scoring an awesome goal and was unlucky not to score on a few other occasions.

Finlay kept well in the first half and cut loose in attack in the second half. Emmanuel took over from Fin as goalie in the second half and was rock solid.

In total, Kogarah only scored one goal and with our three goals for the day, there are promising signs ahead for the Foxes.

A HUGE thanks to Hamish and Chris for coaching this week and the parents and kids provided an electrifying atmosphere on the sideline.



10 Bee 2 v Penshurst West

18th of April saw our second game of the year down on our new home midi field which was still in outstanding condition and showing no sign of wear, and had great fresh cut finish from goal to goal which would allow hopefully for a free flowing game. The schedule gave us a 12.50pm kick off which was the opposite of our opener and it would be interesting to see how the kids would handle the later start and warm conditions of the day.

The team started to assemble around 12.20pm and as the temperature seemed to keep increasing we started our pre-game prep. Being the second game we spent quite some time on positions and positional play, it's always a little tricky when you're playing short but it's easier on the voice if we have these discussions before the game!

With the prep and game warm up complete we took the field – we still have a rotational system for goalie but, as in the first game, Nathan put his hand up for the first half.

Our opening 8 minutes were strong and showed fair control through the middle of the park with good energy. Small passing combinations between the back line, halves and forwards saw several good raids, which led to the first goal as Jonathan slotted it away – 1 - Nil.

As the boys reset, our opponents – Penshurst West – made a couple of team changes that had instant success as they pushed the ball through our mid and defence lines with several of their own raids. This brought the best out of Nathan as he made several top class saves to try and keep a clean sheet but eventually our opponents found the back of the net with an outstanding finish that a top line keeper from All Age would have had difficulties saving 1-1.

That was the finish score of the first half and, to be honest, it could not have come quick enough as being one down and no bench, the boys were showing the results of their outstanding efforts and looked exhausted.

The 5 minute break disappeared in what seemed like seconds and the referee called play on, so a quick shuffle of positions saw Jonathan take the goal keeping duties. Unfortunately this also saw Liam start from

the bench as he had an injured ankle that needed a little attention prior to re-entering the game in the second half.

The opening 10 minutes of the second half put us straight under pressure, with us working from our back third as we were defending several raids and this followed through the whole half and we leaked 4 goals during the period. This finished the game at 1 – 5.

The score was not a true reflection of the efforts shown by the boys today, with missing troops, injuries and the heat that really affected the back end of our game as our boys faded quickly.

All the boys will be the better for the run, a special mention to Ross and Cody who covered an enormous amount of ground working out on the fringes of our formation.

Well done 10Bee 2's and bring on next game!



12 Girls v Banksia Tigers Won 2 - 1

Goal Scorers: Alanna Caracoglia / Tamar Tchamkertenian

POTM: Alana Petanceski

After the narrow 1-0 loss in the opening round, the team headed to Gardiner Park to face Banksia Tigers. A 4-4-2 formation saw Simone in goals supported in defence by Charlie, Taylah, Mia, and Alana P. The midfield comprised of Tamar, Angela, Madelen and Nadine; while Alanna C and Alanna Cogle paired up in attack. The reinforcements for this week were Zena, Capri and Jade. Both Luci and Kiera were not available for the game due to other commitments.

Lugarno went on the attack from kick-off and spent the opening 15 minutes of the game camped in the opposition half. Despite the dominance and possession, there was not much clear goal scoring activity as the team was focussing more on passing and dribbling in the final third rather than shooting. Banksia Tigers were relying on counter attacking football with a number of speedy players upfront testing the Lugarno defence.

With sideline instructions going out to the players the team managed to have several shooting attempts in the final 10 minutes of the half and both Alanna C and Tamar went agonisingly close to scoring.

At half-time the team discussion focussed on turning the possession advantage into goals and clear instructions were provided to the team.

The team continued the trend of the first half and dominated the early phases of the second half. Attempt at having shots on goal were increasingly being made by players determined to get the opening goal. Midway through the half, the Lugarno pressure finally resulted in a goal when Alanna C blasted the ball into the Banksia Tigers goal nets to open the scoring for Lugarno. The goal clearly lifted the team and they continued to push forward in search of a second goal. That goal fell to Tamar, who was supplied with a well-timed ball through the Banksia Tigers defence and, using her pace, accelerated past the defenders to place herself in a one on one situation with the Banksia goal keeper. Keeping her cool she kicked the ball past the goal keeper for Lugarno's decisive second goal.

With just minutes to play, a rare Lugarno defensive error gifted a goal to Banksia Tigers to make the score line 2-1. Lugarno held firm during the dying minutes of the game and registered a deserved victory playing away.

This game saw the team focus on attack and support play in the opponent's final third trying to capitalise on superior possession. Simone, who played the entire game in goals, did a fine job between the posts; Charlie, Taylah, Alana P, Mia, and Capri all played well in defence; Tamar, Zena, Madelen, Nadine and Angela worked

hard in midfield, while Alanna C, Alanna Cogle and Jade pushed the opposition back ensuring the game was played mostly in the opponent's half.

Well done team - your performance during the game made the ridiculously early kick-off time worthwhile.

13C v Connells Point (1)

Lost 2 - 6

Saturday

Goal Scorer: Jayden Montoya 2

Our second game of the season was played at home and, with a strong start from last week's game, the boys were confident in pre game warm ups.

The game started quite evenly with possession going back and forward with each team having early chances at goal. About 20 minutes in Connells Point increased the pressure on our boys and really put to test our mid field and defensive line and, after numerous attempts at goal, the pressure was too much and we conceded our first goal. The boys lifted and not long after Jayden pulled one back for Lugarno to go into the half time break 1-all.

With both teams looking visibly tired after a frenetic first half, we knew the result would be determined by fitness levels and sub rotations. Unfortunately for Lugarno we had only one sub, but none-the-less, the boys pushed on and played assertively looking for opportunities to take the match. However, the Connells Point team seemed to come out after the break fresher and put three goals on us. The boys, never giving up, piled back on the pressure and produced another opportunity for our striker Jayden to score his second goal. With about 10 minutes to go, and Lugarno down 2-4, a few miss timed kicks by the Connells Point players saw both Peter K and Billy coming off to ice their injuries. Lugarno, using their only sub, were down to 10 players for the remainder of the game and regrouped well, consolidating to block out Connells Point's continuous wave of attacks.

The game ended 2-6 with the boys giving their all and coming off feeling exhausted. This was a truly fast paced game where the team made a gutsy effort and would have no doubt learnt a lot from.

13C v Kogarah Waratah

Drew 2 - 2

Sunday

Goal Scorers: Billy Finn / Anthony Azzi

Our third game of the season was played on Sunday at Scarborough Park with the boys turning up surprisingly fresh after the previous day's fast paced game, whilst your match reporter was on the side line still feeling the tiredness the boys endured the day before.

Firstly, a big effort by Peter K and Billy for being able to take to the field after the injuries they encountered from the previous game, true Lugarno warriors!

Both the Lugarno and Kogarah teams were pretty evenly matched, with the first 5 minutes spent testing each other's ability. Our defensive line quickly identified who would cause the major issues for them and looked to close them down. By doing this, our mid field created a great opportunity for Jayden to assist Billy to score a great opening goal for Lugarno at the 7 minute mark.

The game continued with both teams creating plenty of missed opportunities, the sideline was tense with hands on heads for the many missed chances. Unfortunately for Lugarno the Kogarah team, with their speedy striker, broke through our defence and scored 2 goals at the 24th and 27th minute mark. Never giving up, Lugarno pushed hard and a great assist by Alexander put Anthony through on goal to even the scores right on the half time whistle.

The second half opened again with both teams attacking hard, which of course created opportunities for counter attacks. It was clear both teams were giving their all to get the next goal as it would most likely seal the game.

Unfortunately for us, the goal never came and eventuated with a common theme of missed opportunities. As a team we'll look to work on finishing the fantastic opportunities the boys created for themselves from defence to attack.

To summarise, it was a great team effort with our defence limiting the strong Kogarah attack. When they did get through, the safe keeping hands of Peter K left Kogarah disappointed on many occasions. Peter had a stand out game, his saves well and truly kept us in the game – well done! Our mid fielders providing the great opportunities for our attacking line to put 2 into the back of the net, and Alexander's header going over the top right by a whisker, which would have been a great highlight of the second half.

Next week is a well-deserved break for the boys after this week's two fast paced and action packed games. Training is still on though!



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14B v Penhurst West

Won 4 - 3

Saturday

Goal Scorers: Mitchell Trajkovski 2 / Will Simmons / Kane Spiteri

POTM: Raffi Tchamkertenian

A sunny and surprisingly warm day greeted both teams as they met at Gannons Park. Lugarno opted for a 4-2 formation for this game, giving due respect to a former division A side.

The early exchanges were pretty even with Penhurst West attempting a number of long distance shots that did not cause much problem for the Lugarno defence. As the half progressed Lugarno started gaining control of the game and, with an emphasis on quick passing and ball movement, signs were emerging that their opponents were starting to tire.

Lugarno's opening goal came in the 14th minute when Kane progressed into the penalty area and was at the receiving end of a well-timed pass that ended up in the opponent's nets. Despite some counter attacking football from Penhurst West, the Lugarno defence succeeded in holding firm. Lugarno in turn had a number of scoring chances but failed to add to the score line. As a result the teams went to the half-time break with Lugarno narrowly ahead on the scoreboard.

The teams traded goals in an entertaining second half. Lugarno scored through Will Simmons and a deserved brace by Mitchell Trajkovski. Although Penhurst West remained close on the score board, the Lugarno side was superior across the field and dominated the statistics that count - ball possession and shots on goal.

Overall it was a competent performance from the team with plenty of good ball movement and support play. Raffi, deputising in goals, made a number of critical saves to earn the player of the match recognition; Jonah, Harris, Mark, Omar, Issac and Evander were solid in defence; Peter K, Mitchell, Alex, Mitchell T, Peter and Stephen controlled the middle of the park; while Will, Kane, and Harry chased everything upfront and constantly applied pressure on the Penhurst West defence.

Game stats

	Lugarno FC	Penhurst West
Total Shots	21	11
Shots on target	13	7
Goals	4	3
Corners	2	4
Possession	55 per cent	45 per cent

14B v Sans Souci

Won 6 - 1

Sunday

Goal Scorers: Kane Spiteri 2 / Mitchell Frost 2 / Peter Katsoulas / Alexander Pejkovski

POTM: Mitchell Frost

The second game of the double headed weekend saw the team face Sans Souci away. For this game Lugarno went with a 4-2-3-1 formation. A sunny but very windy day, the loss of the toss allowed Sans Souci to run with the wind in the first half. With the assistance of the wind, Sans Souci was able to play much of the game in Lugarno's half during the opening 5 minutes. Lugarno slowly started to get into the game and, with a focus of playing short passes on the ground, the team began to dominate possession despite running against a strong breeze.

The momentum of the team was affected by an injury sustained by Lugarno stopper Omar in the 6th minute. Omar was involved in a heavy clash with a Sans Souci attacker and was forced to leave the field with a knee injury.

Recovering from the setback caused by Omar's injury, Kane in the 8th minute used his pace to break away from the Sans Souci defence to open the scoring for Lugarno. With momentum firmly again with Lugarno, four minutes later Kane scored his second goal. Showing no mercy, Peter K took on the defence and, with a powerful curling shot just outside the penalty area, scored Lugarno's third goal in the 15th minute.

With Lugarno firmly in control of the game, positional changes were applied across the field. Sans Souci was able to pull a goal back in the 23rd minute to make it 3-1 before Mitchell Frost blasted a long shot into the nets to give Lugarno a deserved 4-1 lead at the half-time break.

Running with the strong breeze Lugarno dominated the second half creating a number of goal scoring chances. Two further goals were added by Mitchell in the 33rd minute, and Alex in the 53rd minute.

This game really tested the team, especially in the second half when certain positional changes were introduced. Will in goals produced a couple of excellent saves, the defenders at various time comprising of Harris, Mark, Raffi, Issac and Alex remained alert and focussed. Mitchell, Peter K, Mitchell T, Harry, Peter and Stephen played pivotal roles in midfield at different phases of the game, while Kane in attack was critical with his finishing.

Two wins out of two during the double header weekend helped elevate the team to top position on the competition table. No doubt more difficult games lie ahead but it is good to see that months of pre-season work are paying early dividends on the field.

Game stats

	Lugarno FC	Sans Souci
Total Shots	19	5
Shots on target	14	3
Goals	6	1
Corners	3	0
Possession	60 per cent	40 per cent

14Girls v Banksia Tigers Won 1 - 0

Goal Scorer: Olivia Margan

After we started the first round with a bye, this week was our first game of the season.

We have been training for 8 weeks, and it was good to get out there and put all our hard work at training into a game.

From kick off the girls were switched on, playing the game in a controlled way. They played out well from the back and moving into space and picking players. Our keeper, Sofia Roy, touched the ball 2 times in the whole first half.

Our back line consisting of Sienna, Monique, Alyssa, Sofia K and Taylah defended well and all did their jobs. Monique held the back line tight and led from the back. Sienna played well and was there to clean up anything down her right side.

Our midfield was controlling the game, Sarah and Olivia R was directing traffic from the middle of the park with Emily, Victoria and Jasmine working the side lines taking on players and crossing the ball.

Up front as always Olivia M ran herself into the ground being here there and everywhere, with Yasmine and Sofie providing support.

Took about 20mins after 3 chances to finally hit the back of the net with some great midfield play from Olivia R, playing the ball wide to Jasmine, who fed the ball through to Olivia M, to clinically finish - 1 nil to Lugarno.

At half time Sofia Roy handed over the goalkeeping gloves to Sofia K and did well on the field of play.

The girls were in total control the whole game, only thing that prevented more goals was the Banksia Tigers goal keeper who made saves that most goalkeepers would have struggled with.

Well done girls it was a great way to start the season.



<u>16A</u>	v	Sans Souci (2)	Won 2 - 0	Saturday
	v	Hurstville Minotaurs	Lost 0 - 1	Sunday

Goal Scorers: Declan / Daniel

Our 16As had a 'sweet and sour' sort of weekend.

Sweet because we had our 1st win (2-0) vs Sans Souci 2 (goal scorers were Declan and Dani) and sour because although we had only 1 sub today, after managing to keep one of the top teams in our comp scoreless for 80% of the game, we ended up conceding a goal that cost us a valuable point.

I am very proud of the effort put in by the team over 2 days and look forward to keep building up from here.

<u>17B</u>	v	Oatley RSL	Won 14 - 0	Saturday
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Goal Scorers: James 5 / Anthony 3 / Billy 2 / Dimi 2 / Lachlan / Mat L

After having a bye in the first round, the boys started their season with a bang.

In the first half, a different team from the one that played in the Trial Matches was seen on the field. The fitness training that had been worked on by their co-coach Stephen had helped the players lasting the now full 45min halves.

5 goals were scored in the first half and 9 in the second half with James topping the scoring with 5 and even the co-keeper scoring one.

Unfortunately Oatley were down to 10 players which didn't help and they had come from C grade last year. All players contributed well and it is looking good for the season.

Special mention of thanks to Irish (Club coaching Director) and Col Straney (off a long shift from work) who took on the referee duties for us as we had no official ref appointed.

<u>17B</u>	v	Sans Souci (1)	Won 5 - 1	Sunday
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Goal Scorers: Andoni / Anthony / Billy / Kosta / James / Mat L

At a very blustering Carss Park, the boys played a tougher team but the wind at times played more part in how the game progressed with it holding the ball up or making it travel past everyone. 4 goals were scored quickly in the first 15mins then it can became a more technical game with all members of the team passing well.

At half time the decision was to make the forwards defend and the defenders attack to give each an idea of the difficulty of each other's position. One such person who enjoyed the challenge was Andoni who ended up scoring his first goal for a number of years after being a right back for some time.



AAG (1) v Kogarah Waratahs Won 13 - 1

Goal Scorers: Anthony Smith 5 / Jackson Hall 2 / Jordan Sharan 2 / Pat Day 2 / Anthony Palmer / Jack Williams

Our second game of the season was against a depleted Kogarah side who started with 8 on the field and gradually got to 10 players. We know how hard this is from our AAE experience last year and were happy to be the team with 2 subs on the bench this time.

We had 6 goal scorers and some of the goals were beautiful examples of team work and unselfish passing, with some great crosses, assists and lots of near misses. After losing our goalie to the AAD's, Jack was the last to step backwards when we called for a volunteer and kept in the first half, hardly seeing any action while we scored 6 goals at the other end. Anthony took the gloves in the second half and had more to do as Kogarah gained players, and was only beaten once when the backs were watching the seagulls and let the Kogarah striker through to deflect a shot off Jack into the net. Our passing game is coming together and we are slowly working out where everyone likes to play.

A good performance by all, even the guys groaning about hangovers. Looks like it will be a fun season!

AAG (2) v Forest Rangers Drew 0 - 0

MOTM: Ed

2 x cases of beer - \$80

2 x pairs of new boots - \$500

2 x missed penalties - Priceless

Although we were coming off a win last week, we knew FR was a team to watch out for. Our fearless leader returned from his holiday (the previous day) with the controversial formation and interchange list in hand!

Both teams started off strong, with FR having the better of the chances in the first half, Foti (Schwarzer) forced into two great saves.

Approaching half time, Ed tried a shot (miss-kick?) from the 18-yard box. A FR defender handled the ball and a penalty was awarded.

(Big) Pete stepped up to the spot, ball in hand. He shot low to the keeper's right... but unfortunately hit the post... and cleared away by FR!

Scoreless at the break.

LFC almost took the lead early in the 2nd half via a deflected cross... but were denied by a good save from the FR keeper. With 15mins to go and the game in the balance, Bernie took on a defender who lunged with a 'studs-up' tackle in the box...the ref blowing a penalty without hesitation.

Zok stepped up to the spot this time. He directed his side-footed shot to the keeper's left... who managed to parry the ball away to safety!

With minutes to go, (Little) Frank had another audacious crack from outside the 18-yard box...the shot was on target and looked destined to hit the back of the net... but once again denied by the keeper's desperate save. In a game dominated by defence, it ended in a scoreless draw.

Again, our defense stayed strong for the entire game... Foti, Nesh, Pete G, Coxy, Yare and Je with good games. With his tireless running all game, Ed was LFC's man-of-the-match.

O45A v Forest Rangers Lost 1 - 3

Goal Scorer: Paul De Lucca (pen)

Off to a dark start - the lights I mean, the refs were pondering if the game would go ahead - I was pondering a team appointment at Specsavers - it was dark in some corners and FR (Forest Rangers) had a halogen set up in the corner near the canteen (surprised they didn't have it behind their goal!) Tino said he'd have brought sunglasses if he'd known!

Carlos was asking for a smaller shirt so he can run faster, reckons it would be less wind resistance! (Note for gear steward again ☺). A few minutes in Tony T is taken out in the box and the ref awards a penalty - Paul DeLucca makes it one-nil from the spot with a well taken penalty.

FR exerted a lot of pressure after the penalty but the defense of Theo/Danny/Warren/Tino/Dom held up well. The stuff-up of the season (hopefully the only one) as John D makes a sub and Glenn and Max get Yellow cards for an interchange that should not have happened - seemed although play had stopped we'd not got permission from the ref! A well fought half saw the midfield being in control with Max/Glenn/TonyB/Bass (what a player in low light!)/ Foxy/Carlos holding well most of the time. But there was a lack of marking for a moment and FR pulled back one.

Half time: 1-1

It would be remiss of me not to mention Marty's saves in goal - which kept us in the game as usual. With many tipped over the top and FR hitting the bar. Another great save by Marty though saw him injure his hand and his grip on the ball failed as sadly it rolled in (2-1 to FR) and Marty is replaced by Max in goal.

Dom was having a forceful game and his boots finally gave up the ghost and split! Saved by orange tape, he was back later but I can vouch that they are past their prime and he'll need a new pair (see below).

Another sustained FR attack saw them get another but I don't recall any of their goals being spectacular.

After the game there were a few comments about some of the FR team and their "tactics" which were not seen as entirely fair. One was appropriately labelled a Richard Cranium, which made us feel better at least.

On the subject of lost property - I am now the proud owner of the following,

Lone shinpad
pair of boots badly split - orange taped!
pair of shinpads

I assume the last "pairs" above are Dom's.

Well done guys it was a well fought game and the score didn't do us justice (heard that before??)



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