

Football friendly Vs Hillview y6 first team and Y5 first team

Tuesday saw the team travel across the city to take on the mighty Hillview for a few friendly matches aimed at giving our players experience of playing against two very strong sides. Conditions were perfect at kick off in the first game against Mr Henderson's best school 7. It was fair to say the first half was a bit one way traffic with HV going into a 4-0 lead. Half time gave the team time to put a few things right and the second half could be considered slightly more successful with only 1 more goal conceded. So the first game ended 5-0 to HW but we had a chance to put things right in the second game against their Y5's.

Even with an early two goal lead taken by HW, we managed a quick reply through Thexton with an excellent finish into the bottom corner. HW then replied with a third but not to be beaten, we went straight up the other end to make it 3-2 with Crooks keeping us in the game. Then it was HW's turn again with a mistake by the keeper allowing their striker to slot home their fourth. But once again we dug in and forced a corner. The first effort was saved but the rebound was blasted into the net by Callaghan and soon after we made the game level for the first time with Thexton again. A fabulous through ball by Callaghan was coolly placed into the bottom corner-and now the team sensed victory. And another goal was only moments away when Callaghan once again placed an immaculate pass through to Crooks who didn't hesitate to smack the ball under the keeper to give us the lead for the first time. With the clock ticking down it looked to be out victory but heartbreak was just a moment away when a speculative pass over the top of the defence created confusion and their player took full advantage to pass the ball into an empty net.

DDPS vs Grange Park

With all eyes on top spot, DDPS went into this fixture with a great sense of excitement and determination. Grange Park have not had the greatest of seasons and the squad sensed a chance of victory. With the strong wind behind us, we quickly set about using our two wide men to pull their defence open and create chances for the marauding midfielders bursting through from the middle. The plan worked well but the first, all important, goal wouldn't come. The half time whistle blew and some frustration was beginning to show but with some wise words from the manager and his advisor, the team were convinced that kicking into the wind would help us get the ball down and play more. The mins ticked on but still the goal wouldn't come- thanks mostly to some fabulous keeping by their No 1 and by the crossbar. But with the last seconds of the game ticking away, Connor brought the ball down, picked his spot and slotted home. The crowd erupted! The final whistle blew and the team came off buzzing with excitement.

DDPS 1-0 Grange Park

DDPS vs Hudson Rd

The second game of the evening saw DDPS take on Hudson Rd, who have held their own in mid-table all season. Once again, DDPS were set up using a new formation, hoping to take advantage of the smaller pitch and excellent surface. DDPS quickly exerted their domination and a number of chances came our way but, with another great keeper in the opposition goal the first goal wouldn't come despite the one way traffic. But as the first half ticked away Conner brought down a difficult pass and smashed it into the corner. The crowd hadn't even quietened down when HR found space down the right, crossed and scored. Their only shot on target at that point. The boys came in at half time wondering if their luck would change but some reassurance from the coaching staff meant that once again the boys began thinking only of victory. And it came. Once again the hero of the hour was Connor. Another slide rule pass from Thomas sent Connor racing up the wing, outpacing the defender, and coolly placing the ball into the corner of the net. Top of the league was just moments away.

DDPS 2-1 Hudson Rd

DDPS vs Castletown

Last Thursday we were scheduled to play Castletown and Southwick as our last two games of the season. Still in with a shout of winning it overall, the squad were excited and keen to get underway. Unfortunately Southwick didn't show so it was a case of getting on with the one competitive game we had. Castletown quickly showed why they are

also gunning for the title with some quick passing and strong running down the right flank- DDPS took a while to settle and get into their passing rhythm. With a few mins of the first half gone, midfield lost possession and Castletown played the loose ball out to the wing. Two touches later and we were one nil down. Suddenly the game was at risk of getting away. Last week's strategy of two wide front men wasn't working as we struggled to put a foot on the ball such was the intensity of the opposition's closing down. The first goal was quickly followed by a second and the half time whistle couldn't come quick enough.

The half time team talk didn't help settle the ship and within 30 secs we were 3-0 down and staring at defeat against one of our title rivals. Disappointment at the result. Disappointment at having only one game. Perhaps a game to learn from not dwell on. Onwards and upwards.

DDPS 0-3 Castletown