



BOYS' MATCH REPORTS FOR 1st FEBRUARY 2012

U9A v WISBECH

Taverham Hall School's U9A team worked hard for their 2 -1 victory.

The mighty Taverham Hall U9A team travelled to Wisbech Grammar yesterday and it promised to be a difficult encounter as traditionally Wisbech have been a strong opponent. Wisbech started strongly and moved the ball well. After several forays into Taverham Hall's territory they were finally rewarded with a well-taken goal from their impressive centre forward. This seemed to spur Taverham Hall on and last week's man of the match and midfield dynamo Saxon E constantly battled for possession before eventually providing a great ball for Ben B to improvise a spectacular shot at goal and score, despite great pressure from the Wisbech defence. Shortly after, the halftime whistle sounded with the scores all even at 1-1 and Wisbech looking dangerous on their home turf.

The second half saw both teams pushing for a second goal, only tremendous defending by Taverham Hall's Ben G and Jack R and outstanding goalkeeping by William W (not to mention the continuous work rate of Saxon, Ben G and newly deputised right wing Callum R) kept Wisbech at bay. Taverham Hall too had their chances in front of goal in the second period with a Jack B effort cannoning off the post, two shots from distance passing just wide of the goal and a Ben B special from the edge of the D forcing a magnificent save from the home side's keeper. Eventually Taverham Hall were rewarded for their determination and endeavour. After relentless pressure Taverham Hall won possession of the ball with only two minutes left to play. Saxon set off on a typical attacking run from midfield and after ghosting past his opposite man delivered the perfect pass for ace striker Ben B to punish the backboard of the Wisbech goal with a thumping finish. With little time left for a reply Taverham Hall saw out the remaining two minutes comfortably to claim a well-earned and hard fought victory, the final score 2-1 in favour of Taverham Hall School. Well done to Jack B who came on in the first half to temporarily replace Ben G on the right wing and earn his debut for the A team. A wonderful workman like performance against a very good side (with some impressive results already in the bag). Our determination and belief in our own abilities coupled with our teamwork won the day.

U9B v Wisbech

score: 2 - 2

After 30 seconds of play, we realised that this match was going to be much tougher than last week. The opposition were skilful players and well organised. We were going to have to work extremely hard to get a result. After 10 minutes of end to end hockey with great play on both sides, a moment of magic from Harry N really brought the game to life. A great through ball from Oliver L found Harry wide on the left who cut inside, beat two players and calmly slotted the ball passed the keeper into the far corner. Wisbech hit back and put us under a lot of pressure but we defended valiantly until a momentary lack of concentration allowed Wisbech to roll the ball into our goal from the edge of the area. James B put it best when he stated that we got a little complacent.

We started the second half full of self-belief and soon had Wisbech on the back foot. Wave after wave of Taverham Hall attacks put the opposition under increasing pressure but with no reward until Harry N picked up the ball wide on the left almost on the half way line, beat a couple of players before cutting inside, beating another couple of players and rolling the ball into the far corner. It was now the turn of Wisbech to put us under pressure and we defended skilfully. Josh F tracked back all afternoon and Sam C and Oliver M showed a great understanding of the game with their positioning and defending. It looked like we were going to hold out for the win but a moment of indecision at the back allowed Wisbech to roll the ball into an unguarded net. The match ended 2-2 which was probably a little harsh on us considering how well we had attacked and defended. We just need to make sure we are

more decisive when the ball is in our D next time. An excellent display and a good result against a very good team.

Colts v Wisbech

A bitterly cold day at Wisbech was warmed by another fine series of performances from this skilful and gutsy Colts' group.

Colts A 1 -2 to Wisbech

The Colts' A played some classy hockey at times but allowed their bigger and stronger Wisbech counterparts to dominate the early exchanges and gallop into an early two goal lead despite a couple of fine saves by Ryan G. However, the second half belonged to Taverham Hall and relentless attacks orchestrated by Jack vP and Charlie N gave us numerous chances to draw level. Sadly a brilliant display by their keeper thwarted centre forward James C on three occasions when we seemed odds on to score. In the end our only goal was crashed home by Charlie from a cleverly worked short corner but this seemed scant reward for all our pressure and left us trailing by one goal at the final whistle – final score 1 – 2 to Wisbech.

Colts B 1-1 draw

Not for the first time the Bs sheer tenacity allowed them to keep their unbeaten record intact. Under the cosh for long periods defenders Joshua B and Stephen M manned the barricades to keep out a skilful Wisbech forward line but after making several sharp stops, keeper Eddie D was beaten at the near post. However, this is a determined bunch of boys and some good play down the right by Harry W and Daniel H led to a cross smartly converted by James C. Back came Wisbech but several timely interceptions by Josun C led to us searching for the winner but it ended a 1-1 draw which was a fair result.

Colts C 4-2 win

The Colts C s played an exciting match against Wisbech on Wednesday afternoon. It was evident from the start that we were going to have the upper hand. The boys played very well together timing their passes to create some great opportunities on goal, constantly putting the opposition's defence under pressure – an excellent performance which resulted in a 4-2 victory. Goal scorers this afternoon were Charlie G, Aaron H, Matthew A and Oliver E. Players of the match go to Charlie G and Matthew A.

Colts D 2-2 draw

The Colts Ds enjoyed their first game of the term. Under incredibly cold conditions they played some good hockey. The teams passing skills are visibly improving as well as their team work – a great game which finished in a draw. Our goal scorers were Alexander T and Louis C and Player of the Match was Ezra L.