



WELLESLEY HOUSE

★ A SCALIS PATULIS AD ASTRA ★

On Wednesday afternoon, a squad of eight boys headed over to JKS. As the bus pulled into Sturry, everyone was buzzing with anticipation although there was definitely a feeling of nervousness and tension as well. That feeling mounted as we saw the buses of Holmewood House, Junior King's Canterbury and St Edmund's parked up outside...

Our first match was a tough one against Holmewood House who had a very strong team (and would go on to win the entire Shapira Cup - in some style). We suffered a comfortable defeat to open our tournament but we were not to be too downhearted. Next up, we had a match against one of our biggest rivals, Junior King's, in which we scored first with Will F slotting a lovely shot into the bottom left hand corner. In the second half we conceded one goal; the final result: 1-1.

After a five minute water break and pep talk from Mr Martin, we jogged back on to the pitch to face a strong King's Rochester team - this time again the result was a draw 1-1 with another wonderfully taken goal from Will F on the stroke of half time.

Upon completion of the pool stages, we were put into the Plate competition alongside Northbourne, Marlborough House and King's Rochester. Our first plate match was against Marlborough House who we beat 3-0, playing some quality football. A special mention to Reuben C with a surprise goal very early in the match. Captain Archie B also got his name on the scoresheet and another from Will.

In the Final we were up against Northbourne. This was a bit of a grudge match as they had just beaten us on our home turf 1-0 a week ago. We started the match and it was very even, the odds were bang on 50-50 but after a while, our fitness levels shone through and we started to stamp our authority on the match. Our first breakthrough came from the reliable right foot of Will F - 1-0. Soon after that Northbourne broke through our defenses... It was 1 on 1: Hector versus their striker... We all watched with our hearts in our mouths and then Hector saved a great shot in the bottom right with a brilliant diving save. Yes, Hector!! In the next phase of play we scored again with Archie B putting a lovely volley away (of which I know he is very proud). And then the final whistle blew: we had won the plate 2-0!!

The entire squad deserves recognition. Hector was immense in goal, Thomas Spanton and Xandy were like a brick wall in defense, Archie B and Will F controlled the game from midfield and Reuben C and Luis were both skilful and brilliant up front and Carlos was an ultra reliable sub.

After the celebrations all of the players thanked Mr Martin who did a great job of running the day and being a good coach and then onto the most important part of the day: Match tea.

Match report by: Xandy Long (Block 1)