

## **Below-par Reserves labour to make it two from two**

After a good win against Singh Sabha last time out, the Reserves travelled to Burghfield to take on East Reading in this East Berks Premier league clash.

The home team were looking to improve after a tough start to the season after losing their first two games. Virginia Water Reserves started the better of the two teams, dominating possession early in the half. However poor decision making, and the quality of the final pass saw promising moves come to nothing.

Some good play from Holliday and Blakebrough saw Virginia Water break into the opposition box, but the keeper was equal to Blakebrough's drive across goal with a smart save. As the half wore on, the game became scrappy with Virginia Water becoming increasingly frustrated. Some good opportunities from balls into the box were wasted with Sewell mis timing his leap on a couple of occasions. Soon the away team thought they had broken the deadlock, but Holliday was ruled offside by the home team linesman in what looked a dubious decision.

In the 20th Minute the away side broke the deadlock. Arjun Sayan worked hard to keep the ball in and squared for a simple tap in from left back David Chipping. The game continued to be scrappy affair, some half chances for the home team were snuffed out by the defence the Waters defence. The first half saw the away side go in 1 nil up. At half time Philip Oladunjoye and Sam Coles replaced Chipping and Sayan.

The second half took on the same pattern as the first, with the Waters dominating the game but the quality was lacking throughout the team. More opportunities came and went with Cooper spurning an opportunity from a cross into the box from Holliday. More changes followed with Jayden Robinson replacing Sewell. Abbot replacing Stewart and Debutant George Gilchrist replacing Archie Payne. Gilchrist should have scored with his first touch but hit the bar from 5 yards out. Robinson started to cause issues with his pace and drew a foul in the box resulting in a penalty to the waters.

After a delay in taking the penalty due to some strange theatrics prior to the kick from the home team GK, Jamie Watson saw his penalty saved. The game then descended into farce for 5 minutes. The home sides goalkeeper saw red for an unsavoury reaction towards the referee. Unfortunately, the game was close to being abandoned as the goalkeeper refused to leave the pitch. The altercation also saw East Readings manager booked too. Eventually the game restarted, and Waters continued to press in search of the elusive second goal.

This came finally in the 85th minute, Gilchrist driving home on debut low into the bottom corner atoning for his earlier miss. In the last minute of the game Robinson slotted in his first for the club and wrapped up the points. This came after some great work from Oladunjoye, who fed Blakebrough to give Robison a simple finish.

Next week the Reserves are on the road again to Hype Train looking for a vastly improved performance and looking to maintain a 100% record.