

Whitehawk 3 – 1 Hailsham

A potential banana skin was avoided by Darren and the boys but not after a hard fought victory over a determined Hailsham Town.

From the kick off the Hawks knew they were not in for an easy night and after just five minutes a under hit back pass was never going to reach Chris Winterton in goal and as he and the Hailsham striker got to the ball the forward got to it first and Winterton brought him down just outside the box and the ref showed Winterton the red card and with no substitute keeper on the bench it was Joe Gating that put on the No.1 jersey.

This lifted a spirited Hailsham side and the next 10 minutes they had a real good go, Darren replaced Jerahl Hughes with Sam Gargan and went 4-3-2.

With the cricket background of Joe Gating it was the perfect choice and he made to great saves to deny Hailsham taking the lead.

The Hawks began to express themselves and the boys worked so hard all night, but in the 38th minute a cross was unfortunately turned into his own net by Paul Armstrong giving Hailsham the lead.

Credit to the lads they dug in and there reward came the way of the penalty spot as Armstrong redeemed himself by calmly sending the keeper the wrong way on the stroke of half time.

Josh Jones replaced Mark Pullen after the break as Darren decided they were getting on top and after 61 minutes the hard working Ben Godfrey who had only minutes earlier hit the post got his reward for his hard work to put us in front.

Hailsham started to weaken and Sam Gargan made it 3-1 in the 77th minute to send us through and into the next round.

Man of the match

The Whole Team