Whitehawk 1 – 1 Worthing

By Nathan Jones

This keenly fought south coast derby ended in a draw which was played on a very testing pitch.

More than half the players had played for both clubs and that showed in the passion and commitment.

When the teams met earlier in the season that game also ended with today's score line.

The game started with both sets of players struggling to stay on their feet as the conditions played a big part in the opening goal from Whitehawk's James Fraser, Jerahl Hughes broke down the right and as he cut back inside Worthing's Steve Metcalf slipped to allow Hughes to cross for Fraser, who's shot was deflected past a stranded Alan Mansfield to put the Hawks in front on 21 minutes.

The home side lost their goal scorer just before half time and also his energy from midfield and that was the change that Worthing needed.

In the second half it was back to the wall stuff for the hosts as the visitors were playing all the football and were unlucky not to take all 3 points.

It was one of the returning players that got the equaliser for the Rebels on 50 minutes as Ryan McBride slotted home from 3 yards after Chris Winterton had saved from Mike Hugget.

Winterton was called upon a lot more as Worthing really pushed the home side back.

McBride, Hugget, Tom Manton and Tom Lawley all had efforts saved by the impressive Winterton.

Both teams had huge calls for a spot kick as the game approached the end, but both were waved away by the referee and the game ended in a stalemate.

Man of the match

Chris Winterton (Whitehawk)