

**Sunday, 27<sup>th</sup> November 2011**  
Geoff Stockham/Matt Holligan

**ESSDA Soccer Sevens *Maradona* Division**

# **AC Show Ability to Counter-Attack Quickly in Cold, But Thrilling Game at Gyle Park**

**Beechwood 2 – AC Oxfangs 8**

**Half-Time 0-2**

**Scorers**

Leo, Max, James (6)

**ACO Man of the Match.**

Today's MOTM is a tricky one, only because all players had good games and showed signs of positive work at training paying off. This week's MOTM is a joint one. This week James and Max get the award. James for his hard work up front on his own, having to hold the ball up and managing to grab himself 6 goals. Max for his work on the wing and setting up chance after chance for the strikers and other players. Max also put in a few tackles which hopefully will help him become tougher which he knows he needs to get. Well Done Boys.

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ACO met Beechwood on a freezing cold day at the Gyle, on a pitch that had seen a lot of overnight rain.

Beechwood started positively, and Aaron had to dive into the goalmouth mud bath to collect an early cross. Cillian was persistent with his tackles to force his opponent wide, then Beechwood had the first shot of the day that just went wide. Cillian then did well to keep a loose ball from going out for a corner, then set up a quick ACO break down the right. James' quick throw found Christopher who won a corner. The ball bounced out to James whose shot rebounded off Leo, but Liam sent the ball back in to Max, whose shot was blocked.

Beechwood attacked again, and Liam and Leo combined to allow Aaron to collect the ball comfortably. Beechwood soon attacked again, and Aaron made a strong one-handed save from a long shot. From the corner, Max was fortunate to see his sliced clearance fall into Aaron's arms - a lucky escape for ACO.

Now ACO started to control the game a bit more, and Max's cross nearly set up Leo. James then made a good run along the left and cut the ball back to Leo who fired the ball into the roof of the net to give ACO the lead. Both teams were closing down each other in midfield, and for a long time the ball didn't go near either goalmouth. Eventually Christopher was bundled over for a free-kick, and his subsequent shot nearly went in but the keeper somehow managed to block it in the mud. James then powered into the box and set up Christopher, who forced the keeper into another good save, then Leo's snap shot hit the side netting.

ACO then doubled their lead after some good passing up the pitch, and Max was in quickly to poke the ball past the keeper. James nearly grabbed another with a long shot, but the ball was deflected out for a corner. Max nearly bundled in the cross, but the ball was cleared off the line. Beechwood raced up the pitch but fired the ball straight at Aaron. Beechwood then broke through the ACO defence and Aaron made a fantastic double save to deny his opponent.

ACO finished the half well, with some more good work by James along the wing to pass to Max, who gave the ball back to James, but the keeper pushed his shot onto the post and out for a corner. James sent in a good corner but it was cleared, then Max sent in a great cross but nobody could get on the end of it.

### **Half-Time: 0-2**

The half-time team talk seemed to have an immediate effect, as James raced onto the kick-off and passed to Leo, who set up Christopher for a shot that was saved. Max's follow up hit a Beechwood defender square in the face and rebounded to Kieran. The keeper didn't seem to see Kieran's shot as he didn't react to it at all, but unfortunately it went just wide. Despite ACO's pressure it was Beechwood that scored next, after a powerful run from the half way line, and a neat finish that squeezed in at the near post. ACO responded immediately though, with a good quick throw from Max to Christopher who laid the ball off for James to fire in a powerful shot and restore the two-goal lead.

Beechwood then hit the post, but some more good passing work from ACO moved the ball up the pitch for Max to try a long shot. His shot crept past the keeper, but was trickling towards the line, so James rushed in to make sure and knock the ball into the net. Beechwood tried to attack again, but were foiled by another reaction save from Aaron at point blank range, then Brodie calmly tidied up with a good long clearance.

ACO then got another goal with a good clearance from Kieran to Christopher, and his quick pass set James free. He rounded the keeper and did well to still find the net from a narrow angle and grab his hat-trick. It was all ACO pressure now, and Leo and Max had good chances, but then it was Beechwood that scored against the run of play after some desperate defending in the ACO box, and a shot was fired in to the top corner.

Again ACO replied immediately, with a long shot from James creeping under the keeper. Then ACO grabbed another after some skilful control from Christopher and a pass out to James on the by-line. It may have been a shot, or a misplaced cross, but the ball shot into the net from an impossible angle. Beechwood applied some pressure again, but Kieran calmly dribbled the ball out of the box and sent the ball to James, who crossed to Max in the box. The keeper couldn't get hold of the loose ball but Beechwood managed to clear.

ACO then scored another when a huge clearance from Kieran left James with one player to beat and he raced past him to score his sixth, all of them in the second half. There was time for a couple more Beechwood attacks, but Cillian did well to shepherd the ball back to Aaron, then he made another great last-ditch tackle and clearance, finding James whose long shot was deflected goal wards by Max, but only into the side netting. A good result for ACO to end a run of six games without a win.

### **Full-Time: 2-8**

#### **Coaches Message:**

Well done today boys, played some excellent football in some very tough conditions. Playing short passes in small areas, playing in triangles and being able to play a long ball up to the striker and getting the play changing from defence to attack quickly. Some good communication, still need to be shouting a bit more but well done today. See you Thursday.

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