



## MATCH REPORT UNDER 13'S

<b>Round 6:</b>	Park Orchards vs Surrey Park
<b>Date:</b>	16 May 2010
<b>Scores:</b>	Park Orchards 12.8.80 defeated Surrey Park 1.3.9

Packed with a water bag and a road map, we ventured out to Park Orchards to be met by a thick fog across the length of the field. The fog proved to be just one of the challenges for our young charges, as they had to acclimatise to the slippery conditions, heavy ground on the members-side wing, not to mention a top-of-the-ladder team in Park Orchards.

The boys generally seemed 'up' at the commencement of the match which saw them contest and play out a fairly even first quarter. With our opponents kicking behinds early, we gained some practice at the kick-ins however much of these balls were kicked to stationery targets, which proved easy for Park Orchards to spoil. There were still some pleasing Panther moments with Dan leading the way with some great smothers, desperation at stoppages and the first 2 of his 8 or more left foot kicks for the match. Lemo's great mark within range saw a chance slide past the wrong side of the post, and Harry's soccer style kick from 30+ out had the crowd on their feet and cheering – only to see it miss to wrong side of the post as well. Our opposition was able to snare a couple of vital goals towards the end of the quarter to take the lead at the first break.

Quarter 2 and the boys again took it up to their more fancied rivals, by keeping the ball wide in defence, running down the wings and making efforts to kick to our forward targets. With the ball often found at ground level this lead to our plenty of in-close battles. Ed was into everything and providing many a contest, Pat O'S was presenting at every opportunity, with Nick also casually chipping in with his trusty left foot. Play of the quarter however went to Ozzie who switched the play by kicking across goal, found an unguarded Anthony Malate, who marked surely, delivered to a team mate, to see the play end up on our half forward line – inspiring stuff. Despite these efforts, we still failed to get goals and so went in at half time with a 4 goal deficit.

After a drink, a 'snake' and some soothing words, it was back out there for another go at making the scoreboard tick over. Things started slowly as we failed to hit targets and were therefore unable to string together enough possessions to team mates to carry us forward. Our Opposition found it in the scoring zone too often which saw the pressure on our backline. No lack of effort from those down back though, Pat D was again holding strong and doing his utmost to keep things going our way. Mach was into the play and often giving us drive with his kicks, while Darcy applied one of the tackles of the day and be rewarded with a free kick for his efforts. Toby was holding his marks and getting boot to ball well, despite feeling the effects from an earlier sporting contest. Will Keogh was run ragged with long spells on the ball, and his gather at CHF, followed by a few loping strides and resulting long bomb saw our one and only goal brought up for the afternoon. Down by 7 goals, we went to the huddle at  $\frac{3}{4}$  time.

Back into it for the last and the boys continued to give their all. Declan was getting amongst it with some solid tackles and penetrating kicks while Callum was again trying his heart out to send the ball forward for the team. Despite our opposition finding too much of the ball in this quarter, Will Grinter never took a backward step as he continued to run throughout the day, attacked the ball, took some great marks, and gave us great service across the half back line. First Gamer, Tobias also went in hard and rode some bumps as he gained some match fitness against a top side. In the end, despite our boys never giving in, we went down by 11 goals. Congratulations goes to Mach for playing the game in right spirit and always accepting the umpires decision (even when it goes against him), and for receiving the umpires award for his efforts during what was the Umpires Appreciation Round.

Overall, the boys weren't able to match it with their opposition today however they continued to show great endeavour and spirit for the full 4 quarters and can look forward to an improved score line next week.