

CHARITY FOOTBALL MATCH



Children in Care

vs

Medway Council XI



Blessed with the July sunshine once again this year, the annual charity football match between Children in Care (CiC) and Medway Council's social care workers and professionals had arrived! With the need for two matches this year, there were many more young people involved than ever before!

Strood Academy was the ideal venue once more and a refreshments stall helped keep our force of supporters going throughout the match!

With two friendly games lined up, gloves were off and the junior CiC were in high spirits to start their match. The team started off very strong but were met by a determined social care team defence! The junior CiC all wanted a piece of the action and the defending was solid Until the social care team scored on a lucky break - 1-0. But the juniors come back strong and scored 1-1 - world class goal! The professionals did an England....and had a defensive collapse so our CiC scored another goal tapped in by Lewis 2-1!

The ball was run up the wing by Bill and passed into the middle to Alfie who tackled the opponents and kicked the ball to Cameron. The crowd went crazy as Joe put it in the net: 3-1! But it's not all over yet..... and the professionals scored another lucky goal.... 3-2.

Tactics were discussed at half-time and as the second half kicked off the junior CiC were hoping to score more goals. The social care team attacked, the ball was passed to the near post too quickly for the junior CiC to clear the ball away and they scored off the post and in: 3-3.

But with their heads still high the junior CiC were looking for the winner as there were only Five minutes of play left. The ball was passed to Beth, Beth passed to Dylan who scored the winner 4 -3! An exciting neck and neck game celebrated with a trophy presentation by Barbara Peacock, Director of Children's and Adult Services, to cheers from the crowd – well played everyone!



"It was the first year I've been and I really enjoyed playing against the social care team. They were a tough team. I look forward to playing again next year."



After a firm handshake, the senior CiC football match was about to begin. The CiC Captain, Drew, gave some good words of advice just before the referee blew the whistle to kick off. With high energy and end to end action, the senior CiC team showed some dazzling dribbling, silky skills and fancy foot-work whilst the social care team with some brilliant ball play, attacked the goal and lobbed our goal keeper Paddy to go 1-0 up.....a fluke goal!

The game played on and the senior CiC passed the ball about from John to Abdul then to Aaron who scored with a vicious shot.... straight in the back of the net: 1-1! There was a huge cheer from everyone!! Keeping focused on the game the social care team were on the attack again, and passed and tapped in a sneaky shot 2-1. The crowd fell silent!

The senior CiC team played on with their heads still high, fighting to come back until a free kick was given away to the social care team. Captain Andy Willetts stepped up and just like Ronaldo.... scored their third goal: 3-1 what a free kick!!! David passed the ball to Ed, who passed to Dean, who scrambled the ball in to the path of Abdul who scored one on one with the goalie! 3-2! The celebration was crazy! The senior CiC were looking for an equaliser but the social care team was quick to pass the ball up top to where the ball was tapped in 4-2 past our keeper! With minutes left to go and two goals to try catch up the referee blow for full time. Handshakes all round, pats on the back and much needed drinks followed by the trophy presentation – a great game and well played everyone!

“What a great occasion matched by two terrific teams. It was a pleasure to be involved and play in both games where the young people were a real credit to themselves and Medway. The standard of football from the young people was just super and I look forward to the next event, although I’m not sure my legs agree!!”

Andy Willetts

“I have never played 11 a side football before but 13 a side well that’s even bigger! I’m so glad I got to play and I can’t wait to take part next time and be more involved with the Children in Care Council”

