

## **Hursley v Fleming**

### **Under 18's match**

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

The match was scheduled for the above date with a 2pm Kick off , upon arrival no pitch had been allocated , after discussion with the groundsman it was advised an error had been made , he could only offer a junior pitch , after discussion with Nigel (Fleming Manager ) and Andy the referee all parties agreed to play on a smaller pitch

It was a very competitive game and Hursley took an initial lead , both Nigel and Ollie (our coach) were exchanging verbal's , Nigel said at one point " I would keep quiet if I were you as you shouldn't even be on this side " I spoke to Ollie and advised him to concentrate on our team ,

We then had a goal disallowed for off side, flagged by Fleming's regular lady assistant line volunteer , a few of our team were disgruntled, I shouted out to move on and play the game Half time arrived with the score at one all,

Andy the referee came over and spoke to me regarding some of our players requesting they calm down particularly in some of their comments to him, accordingly I spoke all the players during the half time break urging them to do what they are good at and play football and avoid confrontations

The second half started and the Fleming keeper who was having an inspired game kept us at bay , then another goal was disallowed , some of the players were annoyed and instead of concentrating on the game were more concerned about the performance of the referee , Joe M who was on the side lines said something to the referee and was booked , at this point , all our players on the side line were moved back by Ollie and myself

Fleming scored in the 89<sup>th</sup> Minute and won the game 2-1 , as I was shaking hands with Nigel and his assistant after the final whistle , Andy the referee came over and advised that Joe M had sworn at him again and was red carded , not content with that Joe M came back over to the side line and displayed his buttocks

All the team were told to go away including Ollie by me, he wanted an explanation from the referee for his handling of the game and was rather heated, I did my best to diffuse the situation

I had a long and calm conversation with Andy the referee after every one was heading away , I offered my apologies for the behaviour of some of our players in particular Joe M , he explained the reason for disallowing the second goal as there had been an infringement , it was possible I thought that the whistle could not be heard , however this does not condone the unnecessary behaviour of some of our players , I shook hands with Andy and paid his match fee

Consequently, we have been stopped from playing until this unsavoury scenario has been fully investigated, obviously some fines and bans will be issued,

In summary our behaviour from last season has dramatically improved and prior to this match we had received a complimentary communication of which Ollie Bailey who has kept the team running must take a lot of credit for this turnaround , he is very young and I have done my best to guide him , at this match he was somewhat immature in his handling of the scenario at the final whistle , I am confident this would not be repeated if he is allowed to continue in his role , I am happy to support him on match days

Joe M is a very good player, however on the day I am at a loss to understand his behaviour and indeed his awful final gesture to the match official, I can only conclude a massive rush of blood to his head albeit that's not an excuse just a possible cause

Finally I would re iterate in writing my apologies to Andy the referee again and ask that you as committee allow us a team to continue for which will be the last stage of youth football , particularly for Ollie Bailey who kept the team together during the summer months , who continues to organise training session's whilst we have been unable to play

Many thanks for your consideration and time in this matter,

Andy O'Sullivan

Team assistant