**Green Lane victorious!**

Green Lane’s youngsters were a breath of fresh air during the Key Stage 3 and 4 football teams 1-0 win over Sir Thomas Boteler this week.

A mix of youth and experience combined to put in an impressive display full of energy and commitment but in the end it was a goal by the reinvigorated Matty Davies that was the difference between the two sides.

Boteler made a fast start and the defensive trio of debutants Ryan Sloan and Jack Ashley and the ever more confident Ryan Bousfield had to be alert on a number of occasions in the early stages.

As the first half wore on midfield maestro Kyle Roach began to pull the strings and feed his forwards Matty Davies and Todd Foster – bringing their respective energy and skill into the game more. Jake Byrne also worked hard patrolling in front of the defensive line to clear up any loose ball.

The second period allowed for rolling substitutions and the introduction to the game of debutants Nathan Hewitt, Chris Cartledge, Shubham Ambekar and Dylan Smythe. Hewitt was involved immediately, showing some nice touches and covering a lot of ground – an ideal midfield partner for the influential Roach. Ambekar slotted in well to a defensive midfield position – making a number of smart interceptions and passes. Cartledge overcame his footwear issues to show signs that he could become a predatory forward and Smythe belied his pre match nerves to show that he has all the ability to become an important member of the team.

Davies broke the deadlock midway through the second period – bursting into the box to finish after a ball from Hewitt. It was no less than the energetic striker deserved and his delight – and that of his team mates was clear to see.

The goal breathed new life into Green Lane and they continued to power forward as Boteler tired. The relentless Foster hit post, bar and goalkeeper as he desperately searched for a goal that unfortunately did not come. He can be well pleased with his efforts however, which drew praise from the opposition coaches. Roach continued to show his excellent football brain, controlling the tempo from an increasingly advanced position as Davies dropped back to add his energies to the defensive effort.

Boteler staged a late rally, putting pressure on the Green Lane goal but with Barker in no mood to concede, and superb commitment in defence from Bousfield, Smythe, Roach and Davies in particular – Green Lane held on to secure the victory.

Many thanks to our opponents from Boteler with whom we shared refreshments post match – we hope to arrange another match for the new year – watch this space!

Green Lane Team

Barker (GK) – Sloan (D) Bousfield (D) Ashley (D) – Roach (M) Byrne (M) – Foster (A) (Capt.) Davies (A)

Subs – Ambekar, Cartledge, Hewitt, Smythe

Man of the Match: **Kyle Roach**