

YOUTH FOOTBALL

Minehead under-11's opponents last Saturday September 26th were Pynsent. Minehead got off to a good start when Josh Ruston headed in Karl Middleton-Smith's corner after just two minutes. Minehead played some excellent football on a pitch much more suitable for this age group than the full sized version. The home team went further ahead when Middleton-Smith converted a penalty awarded, rather harshly, for a handball. Minehead continued to be all over Pynsent. Jack Stubbs produced a lovely deep cross which hit Nial Gibson on the foot and flew over the bar. Middleton-Smith won a strong tackle on the edge of the penalty area and fired in a shot which the Pynsent keeper allowed to enter the net just inside the post.

Minehead were totally in command with keeper Joe Ferris hardly getting touch. Alistair Madgewick and Ruston combined superbly to enable the former to score number four. Then another long ball from Stubbs was weakly cleared with the ball running perfectly for Madgewick to slam it back into the net. Finally another Middleton-Smith corner found an unmarked Gibson at the far post and he made no mistake to give Minehead a 6-0 half time lead.

Pynsent battled harder in the second half but rarely looked like scoring although they did manage to restrict Minehead for the early part of the second period. Jordan Baker was unlucky not to score with a terrific shot that just went over the top but eventually another goal came. Middleton-Smith and Stubbs played a short corner before the former crossed to the far post where substitute Ben Willmmets scrambled it into the net. Pynsent continued to concede numerous corners on both flanks which created huge problems for their defenders as Middleton-Smith's excellent deliveries created chaos in the penalty area. Minehead would have scored several more times but as yet have failed to produce anyone to really attack the ball in the air and get their head to a cross.

With the game drawing to a close Jack Delbridge who gave a much improved performance in midfield deservedly scored from close range but the goal of the morning came in stoppage time when Middleton-Smith curled in a superb shot

from the left hand corner of the penalty area which gave the Pynsent keeper no chance.

Team: Joe Ferris, Jack Stubbs, Owen Thresher, Dan Boulton, Jordan Baker, Matt Ronan, Karl Middleton-Smith, Jack Delbridge, Nial Gibson, Josh Ruston, Alistair Madgewick, Ben Willmets.