

YOUTH FOOTBALL

Minehead under-11's entertained Tone Youth for a pre-season friendly last Saturday morning. Conditions were ideal for football and a closely fought, entertaining match ensued.

Minehead were on top for most of the first half. They played some nice combined football down both flanks with Jack Stubbs, in particular, getting well forward on the right. The early pressure resulted in a Tone defender handling the ball inside the area and Karl Middleton-Smith tucked away the penalty to put Minehead one up. Stubbs raced away down the right and produced a superb cross that really ought to have been converted into a second goal but it was scrambled away. Another lovely break, this time down the left with Joel Lynch supplying a glorious pass that was shot past the Tone keeper at the second attempt by Nial Gibson.

As the half wore on Tone gained in confidence and came far more into the match. The Minehead back four of Stubbs, Owen Thresher, Dan Boulton and Jordan Baker had to work hard to prevent the visitors getting a goal. However, the Minehead defence always looked a bit suspect from corner kicks and it was from one of those that Tone squeezed an equaliser past Joe Ferris following a huge scramble in the six yard area. Tone were now in the ascendancy and managed to grab an equaliser right on the stroke of half time.

The second period began with Josh Ruston racing through only to be brought down by the Tone keeper for a second penalty. Middleton-Smith was again on target to restore Minehead's lead. Play from then on switched repeatedly from end to end with both sides having chances. Ben Willmets went close with a shot and then a superb piece of play by Middleton-Smith way out on the right created a golden chance for Gibson but he mis-kicked with the goal at his mercy. Jack Delbridge and Jamie Hobbs worked hard in the Minehead midfield as Tone pressed hard for an equaliser. Some of Minehead's defending bordered on the desperate but just when it seemed that they had done enough a speculative long shot looped up and down into the far corner of the net leaving Ferris helpless. The final score of 3-3 was a fair reflection the game as a whole and a good start to the season.

Team: Joe Ferris, Jack Stubbs, Owen Thresher, Dan Boulton, Jordan Baker, Jamie Hobbs, Karl Middleton-Smith, Jack Delbridge, Nial Gibson, Josh Ruston Joel Lynch, Ben Willmets.