

Bradfield

1st X1 – Lost 7-0

Sometimes in football everything can hinge on one decision, on a break of the ball, and sometimes on the toss of a coin. Losing that toss meant that Aldenham were facing into a barrage of Bradfield attacks and what felt like a 40MPH wind. The torrential rain did not help either. This is not to detract from a fantastic performance from the home side who were quicker, stronger and better all nearly all departments on the day.

Having started well three goals in five minutes effectively ended the game as a contest with 15 minutes. A further three goals before half time consolidated Bradfield dominance. With the wind behind second half (although it had dropped significantly) Aldenham produced a solid display and should have scored on at least three occasions before Bradfield wrapped up an impressive win with their seventh. Everything seemed to go the opposition's way on the day but the boys to their credit never gave up. Mike Tsiattalou and Richard Hall worked tirelessly and deserve a mention for their overall displays.

2nd X1 Lost 3-1

After the good win on Saturday, this was a reality check – yes, many of our opponents will be able to field such strong teams and we will have to lift our athleticism and skill levels with the ball, closer to the levels of determination we show when we are defending.

Aldenham started with the wind and conceded midway through the first half but spirits stayed high and Linnemann scored with a fierce drive from outside the penalty area. Unfortunately, the second half was unproductive as we battled relentless winds and Bradfield pressure. Eventually those combined to produce the two goals that decided the contest. Despite the score, the game was useful to identify those players who have a real strength of character and special mention must be made of Ralph, Combat, Barclay-Webb and Goodfield for their efforts at the heart of the action for 80 minutes, any of whom would be worthy of a “man of the match” award.

3rd X1 lost 2-1

This is a team in progress which is now beginning to gel. The scoreline belies the effort and commitment of all the participants. Aldenham keeper Felix Hoh had an outstanding game pulling off a number of important saves. Full credit goes to Alex Porter and Rishi Batra for being solid in defence. Will Crack and Will Kirby confirmed their places in midfield by causing numerous problems to the opposition.

A number of players were trialled up front in this match and Ben Michaelis and Callum Richie looked most comfortable in this position. However it was Louis Gazdar that tapped in the equaliser 20 minutes into the second half. Despite the best efforts of the back four, Bradfield managed to grab a last minute winner a few minutes from the end.

The game was a fine demonstration of end to end football and it was only a momentary lack of concentration that gave Bradfield the advantage. The man of the match was undoubtedly Alex Porter.

U15a Lost 2-0

I doubt I will see a better passing team for the rest of this season. Bradfield had around 7 very good players, which allowed them to play some quality football. Thus to remain competitive throughout (particularly in the second half) speaks volumes of my players. They continue to improve and try to play the right way and they work hard for 70 minutes. Special mention must go to Tom Proudlock who is at present a rock at centre half.

U15B - lost 6-0

After putting in an excellent team performance against John Lyon at the weekend, the U15Bs began this match with high hopes of picking up at least a point. Their dreams were shattered, however, after just 36 seconds when Bradfield's centre forward latched on to a speculative ball forward and put a delightful lob beyond the reaches of Milligan in the home goal. Captain Coleman did his best to rally the troops and some excellent passing in midfield was not enough to break down some very solid defending from the opposition. Bradfield's pre-season training had obviously paid dividends as every player seemed sharper than their home equivalent, and every ball managed to slice right through the defence.

After being 3-0 down at half time, Aldenham started the second half with high hopes of reducing the deficit, but it was not to be. The rain had stopped, but the wind was still blowing and conditions in the second half were just as bad as in the first. This meant that getting back into the game was always going to be an uphill struggle with the conditions now favouring the away team. In the end, some very good defensive work meant that there were only three more goals conceded.

Although heads were down after such a comprehensive defeat, there were still many positives to be taken from the game. Captain Coleman battled right to the end, and was awarded man of the match. Milligan's performance in goal was greatly improved and Freeman-King battled hard throughout. Heads will remain high with the visit of Highgate on Saturday.

U14A – Lost 5-0

It was a solid yet unspectacular first half from Aldenham that held a very good Bradfield side, aided by a howling wind, to just a 2-0 lead at half time. If we could have got one back with the wind behind us early in the 2nd half, we really felt we could have gone on to make a match of it. Unfortunately the exact opposite happened and it was game over from that point on. However moral did not drop and we battled hard until the end, playing our best football in the last fifteen minutes. Jordan Davis (the captain) was our man of the match and worked tirelessly until the end. The team showed promise and given slightly more possession will look forward to better results.

U 14 B - lost 6-0

Football is definitely a game of two halves.

The 14 B's did start markedly stronger than in the previous match against John Lyons, holding Bradfield to a 1-0 first half score line. The boys were much better organised this time and began to use the width of the pitch well. They were also vocally more confident.

However, into the wind and rain and running out of puff the opposition's strength and technical skills began to tell. Three goals came in quick succession and then 2 more towards the end to finish us off.

There are still some positives to work on and we will. Rupert Bloom gets MOM for sheer work rate and Callum McManus a mention in despatches.