

John Lyon – Saturday 11th September

1st XI – Drew 2-2

A slightly disappointing result that could and maybe should have been a comfortable win. After leading 2-0 with 20 minutes remaining, two late goals earned John Lyon a draw in the first game of the season. Max Raby had already struck once before Reece Bennison was sent off 5 minutes into the second half, for two yellow cards in unfortunate circumstances. What seemed like a good tackle was deemed as a second yellow and Bennison left the field. This seemed to spur on the boys and Raby notched his second with a great header from a pinpoint Lench cross. Lench was instrumental throughout and was deservedly Man of the Match award. Shortly after John Lyon got back into the game through a Bayley OG and Aldenham could not hang on for the win as John Lyon scored a late equaliser.

2nd XI – Won 5-0

This was, eventually, a closer game than the score suggests. Aldenham were very dominant in the first half, quickest to each ball and neat in attack. Ondieki scored twice and Linnemann once, whilst a strong defensive line gave the opposition little opportunity. Five half time substitutions were made in an attempt to see some other players, whilst John Lyons' best player finally arrived! As such the second half was a thorough test of our defensive capabilities and goalkeeper Ben Boothby won the Man of the Match performance during this time. An opportunist interception by Serumaga and a penalty from Theocharis gave Aldenham the extra goals which ended the match as a contest.

3rd XI – Lost 3-2

The sides were evenly matched but unfortunately we were not able to put away a number of clear cut chances when the opportunity arose. Aldenham started well with a team that contained 5 new students to the school. In the first half Aldenham scored two relatively easy goals from B. Michaelis and A. Everlegh that suggested final tally might be much higher. To John Lyon's credit they worked hard in the second half and came away with a win. R. Batra worked tirelessly in the back four and deserves man of the match.

U15A – Won 1-0

The under 15A were outstanding on Saturday. Every player carried out the job I had asked them to do on the pitch and gave 110% for 70 minutes. They dominated the game and if it wasn't for our lack of goal scoring prowess, may have won by five. We controlled the midfield and Tilk Malhotra put in a man of the match performance in defence and attack. Special mention must also go to our defence who didn't give their best player a kick. This is a very encouraging performance, especially considering we take on John Lyon in the first round of the cup.

U15B – Drew 2-2

This was a solid start from a hastily-assembled team. In uncharacteristically dull weather for the fixture, the match kicked off in drizzle, but the play on the pitch was end-to-end excitement. John Lyon were lucky to get away with two challenges on Unal which looked like clear bookings, and this seemed to fire the boys in gold to chase every ball. Unfortunately, the midfield were caught napping after 15 minutes and a long ball through led to a defensive mix up and a very easy tap-in for the home side.

After going down against the run of play, Aldenham stepped it up a gear. The midfield dynamo James Stowell, man of the match by some distance, slotted through a glorious ball to Harry Freeman-King, who rounded the last defender and pumped the ball past the keeper on the half hour. A couple of minutes later, a well-worked corner routine led to Ansong chesting the ball down and firing it into the top corner in a manner which would have been a contender for Goal of the Month on MOTD.

The golden boys pressed hard for a second following the re-start, but sadly the lack of match fitness started to take its toll. The equaliser again came from a short corner on the hour. Despite some excellent long-range efforts from Stowell, Ansong, Murray and Freeman-King, the ball didn't get past the John Lyon keeper and the match ended a draw.

U14A Drew 0-0

This was an encouraging outing for the U14 A team on the first weekend of the season the scoreline reflected the merits of the goalkeepers rather than any ineffective play. On balance of possession and also chances created Aldenham won the day. Galland and Alterman at the back were very solid and Holden in goal was excellent. The midfield was well marshalled by Davies and Tyrell was a threat up front . However the MOM nomination goes to Jonathon Bryer who was a rock at the back on his debut

U14 B – Lost 7-2

We did not deserve to lose by 5 but we did deserve to lose. The opposition were far better organised and fitter than us. We will need a lot of drilling in basics like positional sense, aggression and fitness if we are to compete more fully.

We started off stronger than the scoreline suggests with a few boys being relatively comfortable on the ball all game - particularly Baldwin, Bloom, Olins, Rees, Maclean and Black . Rees passed one into the goal late in the first half (1-2). We scored the goal of the match when Rees popped one over the top and down the middle (good old route 1) to a turning and running Black who sprinted forwards, controlled and shot from front left of the 18 yard box into the top right corner. A quality goal.