

Federation Football Write Up

The federation team have been working hard to ready themselves for the start of the season with our first game coming against St Mary's Primary School. The team were ready and fired up for their opening fixture with lots of new faces being part of the team.

The Federation started the game quickly and stamped their authority onto the match winning the ball high up the pitch and immediately putting their opposition under huge amounts of pressure. Tyler ruled the centre of midfield early in the game and played through balls to the wide players with ease, creating chances with regularity. Mid-way through the half, Tyler found himself in lots of space in the centre of the pitch, so he broke forwards and shot from outside the box. The ball was travelling towards the bottom corner, however David nipped in at the back post to slot the ball into the net, well done David.

The Federation continued to build on their good performance and didn't stop the high pressure. The three midfielders (Tyler, James and Harry) were rotating their position well and this was creating many problems for the St Mary's defence. At times, chasing their own shadow. Some good play down the left hand side of midfield saw James play a short through ball to Tyler, who broke down the wing and continued his run into the box. He smashed the ball past the oncoming keeper giving a Half Time score; Federation 2-0 St Mary's.

The second half continued where the first finished. The team found even more energy and began to break quickly when they won possession. This led to the midfield taking some long range shots, which really tested the goal keeper. Tyler had two free kicks saved well by the opposition's keeper, who was in inspired form in the second half. Without him, the score would have reflected the Federation's dominance in the fixture.

A great start to the season, Federation 2-0 St Mary's, with Jack Pond being named as player of the match due to his excellent defence skills. He broke with the ball when needed and limited the opposing team's chances at scoring.

The Federation's next fixture was against an always strong opponent; Gomer Junior School. The A team were ready for the challenge after their previous win and set out with an unchanged starting line-up.

Both teams started the game well with lots of battles being fought in the centre of the pitch. Gomer had the best of the early chances with several long range shots just missing the target. Jude and Jack fought hard in the early stages and the midfield trio worked tirelessly to support the defence. Mid-way through the half, the ball broke in the centre of the pitch to Tyler who broke forwards and rifled the ball towards goal, the keeper got two hands to the ball but could

only parry the ball into his own net. Federation 1-0 Gomer. The half continued with chances being created by both sides, however David was a handful upfront and really pressured the Gomer defence into making lots of mistakes, which relieved the pressure on the Federation side. Half time score, Federation 1-0 Gomer.

The second half saw the Gomer team play a lot higher up the pitch, which made playing out from the back much more difficult. Long balls out from the back were not sticking, so Gomer were having a lot more possession and creating a lot more chances. These chances had to be saved and luckily Kaydon was ready for the challenge and began to make super reaction saves to keep the door firmly shut at the Federation's goal.

Mid-way through the half, some good play from a practiced training throw-in saw the ball played over the top of the Gomer defence. Summer broke with the ball at her feet and was one on one with the Gomer keeper. She took her time and placed the ball in the top corner right out of reach of the helpless goalkeeper. Federation 2-0 Gomer.

The last couple of minutes saw the Federation defending a lot of shots and set pieces. Unfortunately, in the last minutes of the game two free headers in the box saw the Gomer team grab a draw from the Federation. A hard fought draw but lots of positives to build upon in the teams upcoming fixtures.

Final score Federation 2-2 Gomer, some great performances. Kaydon was named as player of the match for his outstanding saves and showing amazing reactions to keep the Federation in the fixture at times.

The Federation B team also played in their first game of the season against Gomer. The teams were evenly matched with both team fighting for possession in the centre of the pitch. In the early stages the Federation team were on top creating problems for the Gomer defence. All players fought hard to keep position and mid-way through the half, Daniel broke down the left hand side of midfield, he worked himself a little bit of space and hit a speculative shot from distance that looped over the keeper and into the net.

The game continued to be close and new faces slotted into the team nicely with Jasmine and Brooke making their first appearances in the boys' league and showing that they were ready for the challenge making great tackles all over the pitch. Unfortunately, Gomer came back strong and scored two goals in quick succession to leave the Federation fighting for the draw. The team continued to create chances with Harvey and Shae having shots saved by a very good keeper. The time was nearly up but some high pressure in the dying seconds from Harvey saw him one on one with their keeper. He kept his cool and slotted the ball home for the equaliser.

A very good performance from the team, final score Federation 2-2 Gomer. A great effort saw Harvey named as player of the match for working tirelessly up front and dealing with the pressure to score his first goal of the season.

Our third fixture of the season saw another tough fixture against Grange Junior School. The team were fired up and ready for the challenge, with a small re-shuffle saw Daniel making his first A team performance after a great goal the previous week.

The game started and from the outset looked as though it would be tough fixture with both teams fighting hard for possession all over the pitch. In the opening minutes, lots of the play was in the centre third of the pitch with both teams not being able to create anything. Mid way through the half, the Federation pushed higher up the pitch and pressured the defence into conceding a corner, the ball was whipped in by James to the back post and David was on hand to score his second goal of the season. Federation 1-0 Grange. The game continued with Grange now having more of the possession, a long hopeful ball over the top saw a mistake by the Federation to see the Grange team pull a goal back just before half time.

The second half continued where the first half finished with both teams fighting for dominance. In the early stages, the Federation had the lion's share of possession with lots of the play taking place in the Grange half, however Grange always looked a threat when on the counter attack and this payed of for them early in the second half to put Grange 2-1 up. The Federation did not let this affect them as they pushed for the equaliser and a hopeful long shot saw the Grange defence handle the ball in the area, the whistle blew, PENALTY. Tyler stepped up and managed the pressure and slotted home the equaliser.

From that point, the game was close but unfortunately the Grange striker became free to shoot into an open net just before the end of the game. A hard fought match which the team didn't deserve to lose. Final score: Federation 2-3 Grange. Tyler was named player of the match for his tireless energy and battling in midfield which was reward by scoring his penalty for his 3rd goal of the season.