

9th October. Home versus Chilton Cantelo

International College: 1

Chilton Cantelo: 3

International College were unable to repeat the success of their opening match victory, this time suffering a 3-1 defeat in the return fixture against Chilton Cantelo. Despite a resilient display in the closing fifteen minutes the home side were unable to overcome a consistent performance by the opposition.

The same team, with the exception of Cheng Yeng replacing Gary at right back, that beat Chilton a fortnight ago took to the field but were unable to continue such dominant form. The first half was generally a scrappy affair with chances few and far between. Although Chilton had the bulk of possession, some last ditch defending ensured they were denied a clear sight of goal. However, being on the back foot meant that forwards Denis and Etienne were sucked back into the defensive melee; leaving Levon rather isolated as the lone front man. Indeed, International College's best chance of the half came from a free kick from Etienne which the Chilton keeper was grateful to watch float past his right hand post.

Chilton's pressure eventually told as they capitalized on defensive uncertainty from International College to take the lead on the stroke of half time. An outswinging corner was allowed to bounce inside the penalty area and, subsequently, when the ball was not cleared, a Chilton striker pounced to slam the ball past Vladimir from 12 yards.

The situation worsened for International College within minutes of the restart when Chilton constructed a fine second goal. A measured through ball from the left put a Chilton player in on goal and he was able to slot the ball into the corner to double the lead. The home side found themselves three down moments later when a miskick on the edge of his area allowed the opposition in for an easy finish.

Nevertheless, International College showed creditable spirit as they chased the game in the last quarter of the match. Changing to a 4-4-2 system College found more control in midfield and were able to launch a number of attacks against the Chilton defence. Levon found space in the area but was unable to convert two decent opportunities, whilst the ever-tenacious Ruslan began to impose himself on the right flank. And, with five minutes remaining, a long through ball found Denis who calmly rounded the keeper and tapped in for a consolation goal.

At the final whistle, the International College players were left to rue two costly defensive errors but could be pleased with their willingness to keep fighting until the end.