

International College 5 Sherborne Prep School 3

The second match against Sherborne Prep School was our first eleven-a-side game on a full size pitch. As the two sides warmed up the contrast in size between the players was very marked: the Grosvenor boys were larger but their opponents appeared to be much more nimble.

From the first whistle our forwards charged toward the opposing goal but, despite five minutes of relentless attack, they were unable to score a goal. Then, after a goalmouth scramble, Andrei managed to poke the ball across the line. The next fifteen minutes was much the same, except the Prep boys managed a series of forays into our half with their deft one touch passing. Lyuben appeared to be present in all parts of the pitch; rushing from attack back to defence. Marko tried a series of long shots, some very close to the target, but it was a solo run by him that produced our second goal.

Immediately, the Prep boys launched an all out attack on our goal and, despite some brave saves by Mikhail, we conceded a goal. However, our lead was restored to two goals on the stroke of half-time after a weaving run by Lyuben.

At the start of the second half, the Prep School pupils played to their strengths by executing a series of closely controlled passes much to the confusion of some of our players. In desperation we conceded a penalty. We all assumed that a goal would be scored, everyone except Mikhail. As the penalty was taken, Mikhail dived to his left and parried the shot. Unfortunately, in the ensuing confusion, the ball trickled across the line. Within three minutes the scores had been levelled at 3-3.

The next ten minutes was end-to-end football. Eventually, Nikita broke free from the defence and let fly with an awesome volley. 4-3. Once again the Prep players tore down the pitch, only to be thwarted by our massed defence. With our last attack Andrei managed to score a final goal.

This was an excellent match played with good humour and a high level of skill.