

International College: 1
Sherborne Boys: 3

A competitive derby finished in favour of Sherborne Boys despite an impressive second half display from International College.

With this fixture having been delayed due to weather on a number of occasions both teams were relieved to finally get the match underway. In typical derby fashion the opening 10 minutes were a scrappy affair as the local rivals struggled for early precedence. Few clear cut chances emerged as the play became clogged up in the congested midfield. The Grosvenor XI's defence, including new goalkeeper Dan, seemed to be dealing well with Sherborne's threat; Cheng Yeng again giving a wholehearted display at full-back.

However, the deadlock was broken after quarter of an hour when Sherborne Boys scored from a corner. The ball was floated to the near post where an unmarked attacker was able to nod home the simplest of headers. Having gone behind, the International College appeared to lose some of their belief and, with captain Etienne playing deeper and deeper, they invited more pressure on themselves until they conceded again from another set piece. On this occasion the College failed to clear a corner; the ball dropped to a Sherborne player who was able to finish past a helpless Dan from 12 yards.

The College emerged for the second half with Etienne and Vlad moved into more attacking roles and instantly looked more threatening. Vice captain Ruslan, who had been anonymous for much of the opening period, began to assert himself as the College dominated the play; almost getting behind the opposition defence on a number of occasions.

Yet, against the run of play, Sherborne were awarded a penalty after Ruslan needlessly handballed in the area. However, the spot-kick was blazed wide. Thus rerieved, the College continued to exert pressure and were rewarded when Ruslan broke down the right wing and finished deftly from the edge of the box.

The College may well have found an equalizer during the following 10 minute period with Denis, Etienne, and Levon all having good opportunities. However, it was the boys' school who scored next when a hopeful cross drifted agonisingly into Dan's net.

To their credit the team did not give up and were very competitive in the closing stages of the game. Ruslan had a great opportunity to double his tally but shot over from close range.

At the final whistle the team could be proud of a fine performance, but were left to rue, once again, sloppy mistakes that concede easy goals.