

Saturday 24th January

International College: 1
Millfield: 8

Naïve defending cost International College as they suffered a heavy defeat to Millfield. However, the 8-1 scoreline flattered the visitors and did not do justice to a spirited performance from the Grosvenor XI.

The result was sealed by half time with International College having conceded five goals in the opening period. All five goals were the result of Millfield long balls and tentative International College defending; with a helpful wind the Millfield goalkeeper was able to launch his punts deep into the IC half allowing an onrushing attack to sweep past a bewildered defence. IC appeared helpless against Millfield's aerial bombardment and were already three down when Jonny mistimed a challenge in the box; Vladimir saved brilliantly from the resulting penalty, but was unable to prevent the rebound being converted.

Nevertheless, IC showed flashes of promise with Etienne shooting narrowly over from a free-kick and Ruslan linking well with Denis down the right flank.

International College emerged for the second half a seemingly changed team and for the opening 20 minutes dominated proceedings, playing the most attractive football of the match. Having changed ends, IC were no longer so vulnerable to the long ball and were able to control possession. Twice Levon broke into the area and forced good saves from the opposition keeper before he eventually found the net, finishing well from 12 yards. Unfortunately, this proved to be IC's only goal of the afternoon, despite Etienne and Denis coming close from long range.

In the closing stages of the match Millfield pinched 3 more goals, but the commitment of the IC side never faltered. The IC boys should not be dispirited by the result. Without moments of confusion at the back the margin of defeat would have been much slighter. Furthermore, the performance at the start of the second half proved that, despite their relative inexperience, the Grosvenor XI can compete with talented opposition.