

# Lyde United - Lyde Tournament - Under 12 result 2009/10

As usual it was a brilliant day, but then Lyde Tournaments always are great events!

Sporting our new navy blue kit, Lyde Leopards went on to win their Final at the Lyde Tournament on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2010. Spain the World cup holders wore an almost identical navy blue kit to Lyde Leopards when they emulated our achievements by winning the World cup the following day. After playing six group stage games, we ended up in the second semi-final. Having watched Somerton B beat Martock Rovers 2 – 1 in extra time in the first semi-final, we knew our game against Somerton A would be tough. Somerton started well, but were held off by our defence. However, a couple of opportunities came their way, when they were able to break through and put their shots wide under pressure. We started moving the ball around, but seemed to lack a killer punch up front. Although, one good shot from Dylan Clark was parried away by the Somerton Goalie.

Somerton continued to apply lots of pressure and they were finally awarded with a well taken goal. So it was 1 – 0 to Somerton B at half time. In the second half the game was fairly even, and with time ticking away it looked like we would not reach the final.

However, after another attack by Somerton, our reserve goalie Josh McSevney collected the ball and instead of drop kicking it, placed the ball on the ground looked up and made a great pass to James Matthews. James was forced wide by the Somerton defender, but had enough room to drill a shot towards goal and into the bulging net. This is how it finished, so extra time was played. The first half of extra time saw no change to the score, and at one all and with time running out, it was looking like penalties. Somerton were attacking again, and there was some desperate defending by the Leopards to block shots. Somerton continued to press, but with the tenacious defending and tackling from Danny Reilly, the defensive pace and technical ability from Louis Cummings and calm and commanding presence from our captain Tom Gaylard, we continued to hold firm. The ball was pinging about and it looked as though Somerton were about to score. However, Connor Coates who was now in goal for us, managed to grab the ball and provide our defence with a much needed break. Looking up Connor kicked the ball with all his might sending it high and long, way past our striker and on the second bounce over the despairing Somerton Goalkeepers finger tips and into the net. Our goalie had just scored the winning goal!

The final was against Somerton B and there were few opportunities for shots on goal in the first half as both teams defended well. However, just before half time, Callum Pilton was fed the ball on the half way line on the right wing and he ran at the defence with pace, skipping past two defenders and drilling the ball into the back of the net.

The second half was much more open as Somerton pressed to find the equaliser, but Lyde Leopards were again solid in defence with Louis Cummings, Danny Reilly and Tom Gaylard dominating proceedings. With Somerton pushing players forward, they left one defender back. So with a tradition English style lob of the ball over the last Somerton man it became a straight race between their defender and our Dylan Clark as to who would reach the ball first. It was Dylan, but only just and he was forced out wide and to his left and with support to far back down the pitch and the goalie narrowing the angle. Dylan clipped the ball with his left (Non striking foot) and we all watched the ball trundle past the despairing goalkeeper's dive and into the net to make it 2 – 0.

The game continued to follow the same pattern and with less than a minute remaining the Somerton goalie collected the ball and preceded to drop kick the ball out. Although he managed a significant amount of power behind the kick, the ball did not reach much height. Dylan flicked out his foot and connected with the ball and we all watched it sail into the Somerton goal. 3 – 0 to the Leopards.

Although Somerton tried to score a consolation goal they were kept away from our net with some sensible defending.

The final score: Lyde Leopards 3 – 0 Somerton B.

Well done boys, and special thanks to Steve and Mark for organising the team on the day and masterminding the win.

Alan Pilton

*Lyde Leopards Manager*

