

## Gatley ( 1 - 2 ) Moston Brook

Contributed by Paul Smith

The seconds travelled to Gatley this week, again with the luxury of thirteen players to choose from. The side again was again a more consistent one with only two enforced changes. Russ returning to the second team in goal and Chris Melia playing instead of Andy Feeke, who was unavailable.

I will start by saying the game was played on a very poor pitch, which didn't help the flow of the match. Having said that, the quality on show on both sides was seriously lacking and it produced a particular poor game. Both sides lacked players with any real composure on the ball and I would imagine it was a particularly poor game to watch. The best of the football probably came from Moston, in the first twenty minutes when we had eleven against eleven. We looked like we had total control of the game and had all the pressure without quite get the breaks in front of goal. Then the referee, harshly sent off their player for, foul and abusive language (I think). From this point, the game went downhill as a spectacle. Moston took the lead, midway through the first half. A corner from the left went over two Gatley defenders and the remaining defenders couldn't handle the movement of a natural goalscorer like myself and I flicked my header into the corner of the net. Unfortunately, Gatley equalised with the last kick of the first half, a spectlative long range effort, deflecting off Mike Longshaw and into the corner of the net.

Into the second half and game continued to be a poor one, lacking in quality and neither side really taking control of the game. Moston were beginning to look nervy at the back. This resulted in a couple of half chances for Gatley. The introduction of Wayne Moran into the back four seemed to settle some nerves and add some much needed composure. Mike McElvaney was then put through on goal but there keeper was off his line quickly to block. From the follow-up, Chay Edwards was thankful for the referee blowing up for offside, or he would have been the recipient of the miss of the season award, putting an open goal chance wide of the target from all of six yards. One of the few moments of quality in the game, finally won the game for Moston. After being awarded a free kick outside the area. Ennie Alitishi stepped up and floated the free-kick over the despairing goalkeeper and into the top corner of the net for a fine winner. Thomas Cains then had a chance to make the scoreline even better but headed over the bar after a fine run and cross from Mike McNeil.

A poor performance but a much needed victory for the seconds against a particularly poor Gatley side. That said, we played our part in a very poor match with too many players lacking composure on the ball and looking to hit fifty or sixty yard passes and giving away possession of the football far too easily. We will have to play better to get a result next week against an improving Urmston team.