

Byron Court vs Robert Southwell 21/04/16

Brent Cup Semi-Final

On Thursday 21st April 2016 defending Brent Cup champions Byron Court, faced a strong St Robert Southwell team, which had just won the North Brent League. The match started very open with both teams creating good early chances. It was Byron Court who managed to break the deadlock thanks to top scorer James who controlled the ball on the right hand side of the area, took a quick touch out his feet and powered the ball into the bottom left hand corner of the goal. The lead didn't last long however and with their next attack Robert Southwell were able to somehow squeeze the ball in at the near post to level the match. Robert Southwell dominated the rest of the first half but thanks to inspiring defending from Abdul and alert goal keeping by Abhinav, the score remained 1-1 at half time.

The second half began as the first ended, with Robert Southwell creating the best opportunities and just minutes into the half they made their pressure count and were able to pounce on a defensive error to put themselves 2-1 up. That goal seemed to spark life into Byron Court who then started to control the ball a lot more. Suddenly chance after chance was being made by the Byron Court boys, but none were taken as they met an inspired Robert Southwell 'keeper. In the final five minutes of the second half Byron Court had a succession of corners with Rashardo coming the closest, seeing his shot go narrowly wide of the post. However Sadeq still had one more quality corner to deliver that was met by a flying scissor kick by James and he scored his second goal of the game to make the final score 2-2.

In extra time there were chances for both teams, but due to heroic defending from both defensives no one was able to score. Midway through the second period of extra time, Byron Court's captain, Bradley, launched a ball forward. The ball bounced over the two defenders and James was there again to see his first lobbed effort parried by the 'keeper, but he then tucked away the rebound for his hat-trick and Byron Court's third goal. It was a nervy end for the defending champions, but never the less they were able to hold on and win the game 3-2. They will now go on to face John Keeble in the Brent Cup Final. Manager Joe Khalfi would like to praise the entire team who gave everything and he was so proud that they never gave up on the match. He would also like to thank everything that came to support and applaud a strong Robert Southwell team.

The team – Abhinav, Abdul, Nikoloz, Bradley (c), Rashardo, Sadeq, James & As'ad

MotM – James