

## Y7/8 Newbridge FC Match Report 7<sup>th</sup> March

With just 9 matches remaining of the season, the title race was heating up. Newbridge started the day with a 3 point lead over 2nd place, Cloughwood Red. The aim was to keep or extend the lead, however to do this the lads needed to display good attitudes, constantly press the opponents, and play positive, attacking football.

The opening match was against Willow Bank, who were 4th in the league. Newbridge started strong, playing pass and move football, and were constantly encouraging the each other. The positive play was rewarded when Charlie scored his 1st of the day, Jake extended the lead with a close range finish. Willow Bank then scored to make it 2-1, so the lads had to remain focused to secure the win. Tyler E came on in the last 5 minutes as a striker and pressed the opppsition brilliantly, Tyler's attitude was rewarded as he scored 2 quick goals before the end to make the final score 4-1 Newbridge.

The 2nd game was against Cloughwood Red, a 1st vs 2nd clash in the league, so Newbridge knew they had to give everything to come away with a win. Cloughwood Red proved to be a very strong footballing team, playing very attacking football. Thankfully, Braidon and Logan stood strong in defence, making great tackles and moving the ball forward. Despite our best defensive efforts and some fantastic saves from Paul, Cloughwood saw themselves 3-0 up with 5 minutes to go. Newbridge started to make a comeback with Jake and Tyler E scoring to make it 3-2. However, Cloughwood had too much quality and scored in the last minute to make it 4-2 Cloughwood at the end.

The final game was against Finch Wood, the message to the lads from Tyler G was to give it 100% on the pitch and have a good attitude regardless of the score. Newbridge started well, keeping possession of the ball and creating opportunities. Unfortunately, Finch Wood scored 2 quick goals to make it 2-0. Newbridge responded well, creating 4/5 good goal scoring opportunities but we couldn't score. Jake managed to score to make it 2-1 with a few minutes to go. In the final minute Finch Wood scored a long range strike to make it 3-1 at full time.

With just 6 games to go until the league winner is crowned. Newbridge remain top on goal difference, however to keep this lead we need our best team, so if you want to play, get your points and have the right attitude. The lads who played also know that fitness was a big reason why we lost, so with 8 weeks to do the next tournament, it's up to the lads to make sure they've got the fitness to play a full 3 matches, otherwise this league title will slip away.

Player of the Tournament- Braidon, a fantastic defensive display in all 3 matches, giving 100% throughout.

Next tournament is in May, but they'll be friendlies/training in between so we can work on fitness/tactics. Big thanks to Tyler G who was a fantastic coach throughout, hopefully he'll be able to come to future tournaments.

