

## **Costock Village - Annual Boxing Day Football Match Report**

**Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> December 2019**

The Annual Costock Boxing Day Football Match took place this year on a wet day on the playing field in Costock.

Due to the wet conditions, the pitch markings were not as prominent this year and a few more mole hills than usual required a little 'maintenance' before kick-off commenced just after 11.00am.

Despite the weather, the match was well attended, with 17 players braving the elements to participate in the match.

The Team Line Ups were 8 on the Lillywhite's Team and 8 on the Barcelona Team.

Here are the two pre-match line ups

Picture 1 – Lillywhite's Team



Picture 2 – Barcelona Team





The match kicked off at ten minutes past eleven and comprised 25 minutes each way.

Lillywhite's had the slight advantage of playing 'down the slope' towards the Village Hall in the first half with Barcelona playing 'up the slope' towards the swings.

Just after kick off, one further latecomer arrived and joined the Lillywhite's who appeared to have a slight height disadvantage.

In an exciting first half that was very evenly fought, with Barcelona going ahead 4 times through scorers Matthew, Finlay and two strikes from Mark.

These were matched four times through nicely taken equalisers by Jake, Jay, Jake (again) and George.

There were chances a plenty and some great saves by both keepers, with particularly nice play from Ollie, Edward, Ajay and Cameron.

With the half -time score of 4-4 - it was all to play for in the second half!!

After a short half time break, Barcelona kicked off attacking the Village Hall.

With the advantage of the slope and with a tiring Lillywhite's side, the Barcelona Team had a great second half with further goals from Ryan, Cameron, Mark's hat trick goal and finally a second half hat trick from Will.

Lillywhite's were not quite finished though and hit a late consolation goal from Henry.

The whistle blew and final score was Barcelona 11 – Lillywhite's 5

Many congratulations to both sides who played the game in the right spirit and hopefully all participants enjoyed the game. It was a pleasure to referee.

After the game, we held a short Penalty Prize Competition where I can Report that the Lillywhite's gained a modicum of revenge scoring 6 penalties to 'Barca's' 4.

Approximately 15 'hardy' spectators were also in attendance cheering on the players which created a nice atmosphere throughout the morning.

After the game, players were able to retire to the Village Hall, where Tea, Coffee, Mince Pies and Biscuits were served

A huge thanks to Photographer John Collins for his assistance in helping me to build the football goals on Christmas Eve.

A big thanks also to Kath Own and Gill Starmer for helping to serve the refreshments and advertising the event.

I thoroughly enjoyed organising and refereeing the event and hope to see you all and others next Boxing Day

Graham Hunt.

A big thanks to Graham who created a poster for the match, delivered these to all the houses in Costock, refereed the match, got the kit ready, and wrote another excellent report.

Also thanks to Rob Parkin who got lumbered into logging the goal scorers.

JohnC