

## LX v Warlocks Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2015



LX Team: John Ingram-Marriott, German Singh, Nigel Guppy, Graham Jackson, Zahid Arain, Gordon Small, Des Legg, Richard Slator, Peter Ross, David Sheridan, Balbir Singh, Gavin Stones, Pami Bolina.

For once the weather was kind to us for this annual fixture with bright warm sunshine and little wind; not the normal conditions one expects to play in at Lord Wandsworth College.

The LX squad of 13 duly arrived, most on time, and after the usual match preliminaries involving sorting out playing positions, etc., the game got underway.

This was the first of the two annual fixture against the Warlocks. The LX team, under the captaincy of Richard Slator, were lined up in a 3-3-3-1 formation, with Richard and Graham Jackson forming the back bone of the mid-field to counter the threat of the youngest of the Warlocks players. The match was a very well contested event with both teams attempting to impose their dominance. However, the LX rather let themselves down by not controlling the ball or sending rather loose passes which tended to go to a white shirt rather than a red shirt. Despite the (average) age difference between the two sides the teams remained evenly matched so that by half time neither of the teams had managed to score and neither goal keeper was really challenged.

At half-time a subtle change in the line-up with Graham and Richard swapping positions caused a few problems for the Warlocks defence and opened up the mid-field more for LX. Part way through the second half the deadlock was broken when Richard Slator picked up on a loose clearance near the top of the "D" and slotted a pass straight back to Balbir Singh who fortunately/unfortunately mis-controlled the pass and the ball fell into the path of Pami Bolina who had the sense to delicately lift the ball over the diving goal keeper. The game continued to flow from end to end but no real pressure was put onto the LX defence though German had plenty to say about how high the LX mid-field was playing!

Warlocks did manage to get the ball past John in goal but fortunately for LX the ball had hit the Warlocks forward's foot first. The LX second goal then came from a break down in play following a penalty corner and the ball was flicked by Pami towards the goal. The shot itself was going wide but the Warlocks defender had stepped wide of the post and very delicately deflected the ball into the net. The game then ran to its conclusion without any further score providing a very satisfactory 2-0 win for LX.

A very welcome and social post-match lunch, along with liquid refreshment, was then provided at the Four Horseshoes pub.

Thanks go to German and Balbir for making the 6 hour round trip from the Midlands; also to Dave Sheridan for travelling so far compared to the remainder of the LX who were all local. Thanks also go to the umpires Roy Woolley (Warlocks) and Graham Beck (LX) for a well controlled game and ensuring that it was played in the right spirit.