

Sunday 8 February 2009

Suffolk Open Cup Semi-final, Waveney Youth B 0 Waveney Youth U11A 1

Waveney Youth U11A played away to their local rivals Waveney B in the semi-final of the Suffolk Cup and U11A deservedly won a tense and closely-fought match to record their 10th successive win in all competitions.

In good conditions considering the recent weather, the away team dominated possession and created a number of good chances with Gallant – on his 100th appearance for U11A – coming close on two occasions. The Waveney B keeper was equal to the task, however, and made good saves from Woods, French and Phillips, the latter chance from Nichols' clever free-kick. U11A had to be on their toes to guard against some quick breakaways but their excellent backline of Sissen, Butler, Walpole and Nichols were solid throughout, and with Meades comfortable in goal there were few scares.

Goalless at the break, U11A stepped up the tempo markedly after the restart and with Welton and Anderson securing a firm grip on the midfield and with some dangerous width provided by Woods and Mahoney, the home team were under constant pressure, but to their credit defending resolutely. Lambert almost secured the opening before Woods' corner was only half-cleared to U11A's skipper Butler who rifled home the winner from inside the box.

Waveney B came back and forced three late corners which U11A defended calmly as they protected their slender lead to move into the final. The match was played in a fine spirit and was well-handled by referee M.Howard. Both teams can take great credit for their contribution to a typical cup-tie.