

Sunday, 3 April 2011  
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ESSDA Soccer Sevens *Maradona* Division

# ACO Produce Brilliant Performance to Overcome Bonnyrigg

## Bonnyrigg 2 AC Oxgangs 4

Half-Time 1-2

### Scorers

Zac (2), James, Max

### ACO Man of the Match

With the best team performance of 2011 so far, today's MOTM was a difficult choice with all 9 players performing great - the coaches had to think hard and pick a player. Today they have chosen Zac. This is for the work effort he put in up front working to win the ball when Bonnyrigg had it, creating space and looking for the ball, making runs to set up chances to score and rounding it all off with two goals. Well Done.

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This was the third time ACO had played one of the Bonnyrigg teams this season, and both the previous meetings had been close affairs, with ACO just coming out on top of both matches.

After a delayed kick-off to allow all the Bonnyrigg team to arrive, ACO started brightly. Kieran found some space on the left to get in a cross from the byline to Zac, who laid the ball off for Christopher, but his shot was saved. Zac also had a great chance after breaking through the defence, but a Bonnyrigg defender managed to slide in and take the ball just as he was lining up to shoot.

Bonnyrigg had a couple of good chances at the other end. First, one of the forwards managed to steal the ball within the retreating area, but the angle was too narrow and Aaron collected the ball well from his shot. Soon after, a break along the right ended with a cross pulled back to one of the Bonnyrigg players on the edge of the box, and his shot flew past Aaron into the net to give them the lead.

ACO responded immediately. Unlike last week's match, many of ACO's long passes were finding their mark, and James sent a great long pass up to Zac, who took the ball in his stride and knocked the ball into the net to equalise.

Bonnyrigg countered again, and Liam and Cillian were tracking their opponents well. Aaron had to be brave to collect at feet in the box, and Christopher was sweeping up any loose balls and bringing them away from danger.

Bonnyrigg were struggling to contain James, and managed to win a few free kicks after being brought down. Eventually, one of these tackles happened in the box and ACO were awarded a penalty! James stepped up to take it, but his strike flew past the post, and the scores remained level. ACO continued to pressure their opponents though, and Christopher's long, looping shot was palmed out by the keeper into Zac's path, and he finished well to give ACO a deserved lead. ACO didn't relax, and Zac, Kieran and James combined well, but James' shot was cleared. ACO then won a corner after Kieran put pressure on the Bonnyrigg defender. Christopher fired in a corner, and Zac's glancing header went just wide. ACO went into the half-time break just on top.

Half-time 1 - 2

In the second half, ACO tried something new, with left-footed Max playing on the right, and right-footed James playing on the left. Bonnyrigg started well, winning a corner, but the cross bypassed everyone. They weren't frightened of attacking the high balls in the box, and Aaron was injured in a collision with one of their attackers, but was happy to continue in goal. Soon after, Bonnyrigg caused problems with two crosses that ACO struggled to clear, but eventually the ball reached James, who sent another defence-splitting long pass to Zac, whose shot was just wide.

Bonnyrigg then thought they had equalised after they stole the ball from Kieran in the retreating zone and scored, but the goal was disallowed as the scorer had entered the zone before Kieran had touched the ball (much to his relief!). Aaron then sent the ball out to Max, who skillfully turned and rode a rough tackle but his pass was intercepted and cleared. ACO were creating a lot of opportunities now. Kieran sent a great ball down the line to Zac, and his shot was saved and the ball was cleared just before Aaron H could follow up. Kieran then repeated the pass, and Zac produced a great turn on the edge of the box and won a corner. James won another free kick on the retreating line, and fired in a dangerous ball but Aaron H's glancing header went wide. Eventually ACO capitalised on all the pressure with James stealing the ball from a defender and scoring with a cool finish across the goal.

Bonnyrigg were not getting many chances, but did cause problems with a high ball into the box. Cillian then made a great stop after being left alone with two Bonnyrigg attackers, then setting up James for a counter attack. Kieran sent in a chipped pass to James but his shot was saved for a corner. From James' cross, Max managed to bundle in the ball to put ACO 4-1 ahead.

With a comfortable lead, ACO then took their eye off the ball for a minute, and Bonnyrigg powered into the box to get a goal back. This seemed to wake ACO up again, and they produced a great end-to-end move to finish the match. Aaron rolled the ball out to Kieran, who sent the ball up to Aaron H in the middle of the field. He then sent the ball out to James whose shot was saved. Christopher's follow up rebounded off the post to James, whose shot was then saved again. The referee then blew for full time, and ACO had won a good match against tough opponents.

## **Full-Time 2 - 4**

### **Coaches Message:**

Today's performance was excellent, lots of hard work put in to get the win today. Some of the football played was brilliant, passing the ball quickly, one-two's with players, different skills, was a real treat to watch. Shows us coaches that you are taking the drills and skills that we do at training into the games on a Sunday. Work doesn't stop there though, back to training on Thursday, another hard training session and hopefully get the same rewards on Sunday. See everyone Thursday.

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