

**Sunday, 20<sup>th</sup> November 2011**  
Geoff Stockham/Matt Holligan

**ESSDA Soccer Sevens *Maradona* Division**

# **North Berwick Fight Back to Earn a Draw Against Tough AC Side**

**North Berwick 5 – AC Oxbgangs 5**

**Half-Time 2-3**

## **Scorers**

James (4), Leo

## **ACO Man of the Match**

This week's MOTM goes to James, having been scoring regularly James has been unlucky a few times this season not to get MOTM. This week he showed the fight and determination for ACO, by working hard to take players on, or working hard to win the ball back from an attacker. Also grabbing himself 4 goals. Well Done.

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ACO were still looking for that elusive win, and an early start at North Berwick may have been a good opportunity as in their last visit ACO had won convincingly.

It was obvious from the start that these two teams were much more evenly matched this time around. James started the game with a good pass out to the left to Max, and his cross nearly crept in at the near post. North Berwick also had a good chance, hitting the side netting in their first attack, but Cillian and Brodie both made good stops in defence to prevent more. Zac then sent a great pass in to James who calmly side footed the ball past the keeper to give ACO the lead.

North Berwick then started to put more pressure on, and Aaron made a good reaction save from a toe-poked shot from a corner, then Cillian made a great stop with his chest in the box and cleared for a corner. The corner came in and a shot took a deflection and looped over Aaron into the top corner to give North Berwick the equaliser.

Max sent a great ball down the line to Christopher, who turned with a great touch and sent a cross to James, who forced a good save from the keeper. The corner came back out to James who had another shot saved, then Max nearly got the ball in at the near post. North Berwick countered, but James tracked back to concede a corner. Although ACO cleared the ball, a long ball came back into the box and the North Berwick forward finished well to give them the lead.

ACO responded, and James had a side-footed shot deflected on to the post, but then Zac sent another great pass through to James and he finished well to bring ACO level. Christopher was strong in midfield to win the ball and then Max popped up on the right to curl a shot to the far post that rebounded into the keeper's arms. North Berwick attacked, but Cillian forced them wide leaving Aaron a comfortable save from a narrow angle. ACO were defending well in numbers, but Zac was always a threat up front, and nearly ran free from a long ACO

clearance but was stopped by a crunching tackle. Christopher and James then closed down the opposition well and James forced his way between two defenders and the keeper had to make a great save. ACO were passing the ball confidently now, and James, Christopher and Max moved the ball into the box in one move that was cleared, then Brodie sent a great pass to Max in midfield. He then spotted James free out wide, and James sent a great shot in at the far post to give ACO the lead, and himself a hat-trick.

Zac then had two more great chances before half time. First Christopher sent in a through ball but the keeper saved Zac's shot, then Max powered past opponents down the left and sent in a great cross, but again Zac was foiled by the keeper. ACO had a narrow lead going into the break.

### **Half-time: 2-3**

ACO pushed forward from the restart with good pressure from Aaron H and Max, but North Berwick broke quickly. Aaron made a good one-handed save from the cross, but the ball fell kindly to an opponent for a simple tap-in. ACO put a lot of pressure on in the North Berwick box, but no-one could get a clear shot. Then Leo raced away down the right and sent the ball into the box, but Max and Christopher both went for the same ball and got in each other's way.

ACO were soaking up any pressure and breaking quickly, and again Leo's pace from Aaron H's pass caused problems, but his shot was just wide. Then Leo made a great run into the box but North Berwick crowded him out and cleared for a corner. James' corner was cleared to Kieran, who chested the ball down and fired in a shot just wide. Then in defence, Kieran did well to win a throw, which he took quickly to set up a great run for Aaron H, but again the ball was cleared. The ball came back to Liam who needed to make a couple of great tackles to clear.

ACO were still passing the ball well, and a good move between Kieran, Max and Aaron H down the left was finished by a shot from Christopher that the keeper saved well. However, North Berwick then had a period of pressure outside the box that ACO couldn't clear, and eventually managed to grab the lead with a free shot in the area. They then attacked again, and Aaron had to rush out to make a good stop with his feet, but the ball fell to an opponent who looked certain to score, but Kieran had raced to the goal to cover and made a vital stop on the line.

James then sent a great pass along the line to Aaron H who ran into the box, but the ball was cleared to Kieran. His shot was going wide, but Aaron H was still standing by the goal and he nearly managed to sneak in at the near post, but the keeper saved well. James found some space on the right again, and back-heeled the ball to Christopher, who then returned the ball to James in the box. His shot was saved, but the ball ran across the box to Leo who tapped the ball in for another equaliser.

Straight from the kick-off, Aaron H stole the ball and powered towards the goal, then found James who curled in his fourth of the game and regain the lead. Aaron H nearly repeated the move from the next kick-off, but North Berwick were aware this time, and actually raced back into the ACO box with a skillful run and finish to bring them back on level terms.

North Berwick attacked from the kick off, but Liam made a great long clearance to James, who was flattened by a hard but fair challenge at the edge of the box. James nearly had another chance from a loose ball but his shot went wide. ACO won another corner, and both James and Leo were unlucky in the box, and this proved to be

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the last move of the game. A entertaining game, and some great play from ACO in attack and defence, but not quite enough for a victory.

**Half-time: 2-3**

**Coaches Message:**

We played well today, struggled to really get control of the ball and keep control of it for a few minutes. Scored some brilliant goals, coming from good passing moves. Moved the ball well, and had stages of good communication (shouting). Unlucky not to finish the game off, working hard on defending and shooting on Thursday. Well Done.

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