

# Robins U10 Red v South Cerney

18<sup>th</sup> January 2015



Robins FC

CHARTER STANDARD CLUB



1<sup>st</sup> half



2<sup>nd</sup> half



Full time

## Scorers:

Sam White 6  
Tom 13, 36

Morgan 20  
Sam Wiles 29, 46, 48  
Teddy 49

**Player of the Match:**  
Sam "Ton up" Wiles

After a busy Christmas period of tournaments and futsal, and a couple of decent friendlies to open the New Year, it was time to resume League duty today with our first Development game of 2015 against our old friends from South Cerney. We know Cerney are a decent side who are resolute and look to play good attractive football, so an exciting game was in prospect.

Both teams started brightly and Robins pressed early, sniffing for a goal, but it was South Cerney who took first blood, catching us on the break and taking full advantage as they finished with a great strike. There wasn't too much consternation in the Robins dug-out as we'd been playing some nice stuff and looked likely to get back into the game. And the confidence was repaid as parity was quickly restored when Wilesy played a nice ball into Sam White who drove the ball home with real assurance to open his and our account for 2015.

We started the 2<sup>nd</sup> period brightly again, and Tom and Sonny both came on keen to make their mark on the game, and so they did as Sonny, bringing the ball out of defence, played Tom in, Tom combined nicely with Sam White to get round the first player with a lovely one-two (nice work, again, Sam!) and then beat two players to get himself to the edge of the area and smashed home across the face of goal. A great team **and** individual goal. But South Cerney hadn't turned up just to play second fiddle to Robins and this time it was they who quickly pulled back an equaliser. The game ebbed and flowed, with some great football being played by both sides. With 5 minutes of the first half remaining, Sam White again provided the assist, this time for Morgan who finished clinically to restore our slender advantage.

We were pleased to see Josh taking a leaf out of Herr Neuer's book today, coming out to play the sweeper keeper role with real aplomb and making himself available as an option for the midfield and defence to use – there was a lovely example of the whole team working intelligently to restart play when Zak found himself blocked on the right, played the ball back to Teddy who calmly swept the ball back to Josh who, in turn, swept the ball out to Sam White who was now able to open up in acres of space – bang, bang, bang and we go from being closed down on the right to running into space on the left in a couple of seconds. Lovely football that plenty of teams at a much higher age level would love to be able to play.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> period provided Josh with a chance to display those silky skills outfield and he took it with some gusto, while Zak took over his role in between the sticks, and dazzled the crowd with some lovely dribbling out of his area, taking on South Cerney players until he could find an appropriate target for his inch-perfect passes and then retreated back into his area. Brilliant to watch, even if slightly nerve-racking for the coaches! Morgan was having a superb game on the right, working hard to track back when needed, always making himself available to receive a ball, and unselfishly playing his team-mates in when required. We know Morgan always shows some great skills on the ball, today he also showed (as he has been doing a lot this season) some really good "game intelligence" as to when to go by himself and when to just turn and play the simple ball to team-mates, brilliant stuff Morgan.

On the other flank Sam White had also been demonstrating some good decision-making, taking his man on when it was on, turning and laying off the ball to have it back again when he found his way blocked. Now, he dropped back into defence, where he did a sterling shift, proving he's not just all silky skills as he showed he wasn't afraid to put in some firm tackles too!. His role on the left was taken up by Euan who played some terrific through balls to create chances for others, not to mention making some great runs and some stinging shots of his own. Only an on-form keeper prevented Euan from being next to register on the scoresheet. But the next goal came from one of Sonny's trademark excellent runs out of defence as he won the ball, drove through midfield to the edge of the box and

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picked out Sam Wiles with a perfect pass through a crowded area – we all know Sam’s lethal when he’s in space in the box and he gratefully dispatched his opener for the game.

Euan’s clever play then started him on a hat-trick of assists, as he picked out Tom inside the Cerney half with a ball that cut right through the Cerney midfield – Tom drove through to the edge of the area and smashed home low and hard across the face of goal, a great strike to finish a good run. Tom’s scoring feats were over for the day as in the final period he took over, slightly less flamboyantly, from Zak in goal to give his “birthday gloves” a test drive, and they seemed to work OK as he pulled off a couple of good saves!

But this final period was really dominated by the Euan/Sam Wiles combo as Euan turned provider twice more for Sam to notch up his hat-trick, the first a killer through ball which found Sam in space in front of goal, albeit with his back to the target. No problem, Sam swivelled and smashed it home in what looked like one fluid movement, great pass, great goal. The second was a traditional close-range effort to notch up yet another Sam Wiles hat-trick.

But the scoring wasn’t over yet as Teddy, having a run out on the left, stormed down the wing and unleashed a cracking shot that a hapless Cerney defender tried to block but succeeded only in adding a bit of deflection to deceive his keeper. Great work Teddy and well deserved for his attacking efforts today. At the other end of the pitch, apart from the two saves Tom was left with little to do as Sonny and Josh provided a high-on unbreachable defence to snuff out any Cerney reply.

This was a good performance overall, with some nice football played by both teams, the scoreline perhaps doesn’t do South Cerney justice as certainly in the first two periods they competed strongly and throughout they played their part in a really enjoyable game of football. It was nice to see our players working hard to support each other on the ball, being creative, not being afraid to recycle the ball when necessary, playing out from the back and the keepers getting involved in outfield play a lot more.

Final word though must go to Sam Wiles’ hat-trick. Sam’s scored a lot of hat-tricks for Robins in the three years he’s been playing for us, so what makes this one so worthy of note? This hat-trick takes Sam to a “career total” of 100 goals in the time he’s been playing for Robins, a remarkable achievement at any age or level of football. We often downplay individual goal-scoring as we firmly believe that goals are the product of a whole team’s effort, with some of our best goals scored by some great passing moves that start from the keeper or in defence. And great team performances are about far more than just who scored the goals and we value the resolute work all the players do in defence every bit as much as in attack - all of our team are terrific players and without the efforts of the whole team, Sam’s goals would count for naught. But all that said, this one time we’re going to make an exception and we think it’s only right to make a bit of a fuss of a terrific player who is a brilliant goal-scorer – 100 goals is a remarkable milestone and we really didn’t have look too far for today’s man of the match. Take a bow, Mr Wiles, you’ve certainly earned it!

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