

### **Ellerslie AFC vs. Lynn Avon**

Halftime score: 0-2

Final score: 3-3

Goals: Nathan Palmer 2, Peter Algie 1

Man of the Match: Peter Algie

Last Saturday saw us entertain Lynn Avon at home (on a poor pitch worked on for six months by an inept council contractor) and they were a good example to those who believe what they read or hear without further investigation.

All the information we had was that they had lost many players from last year and that they were poor and would struggle this season - Well they did not struggle, and pressed us very hard when we had possession which lifted the tempo of the game and forced us into defensive errors which in turn lead us to concede three goals.

We are good enough to score goals against any team but it is disappointing that we had to chase the game as we did. Lynn Avon will be a handful for anyone this season if they can keep their best eleven on the park. We showed good character to get a point from the match after going in 2-0 down at the half.

We played some good football and created more than our opponents. Had long periods of possession and looked in control for much of the second half - Indeed we could have won it 4~3 with some good late chances. It was pleasing to see Nathan score twice from two pressure spot kicks and man of the match Peter Algie score the third goal with about 4 minutes to go. Special mention should go to the work rate of Eddie Sillars, Scott Wallace and Will Roper who all worked tirelessly!

Today we welcome Papatoetoe and they have had the same things said about them as Lynn Avon in preseason gossip. Many have suggested they would struggle. Well, for me, having seen their results over North Force last time out, their 1st and Reserve teams appear to be in good shape, and should be shown some respect. I am of course hoping we play well, and if we do I would like to think we can claim all three points.

We are slowly getting our injury list down and everyone is positive and confident which is a good place to be. The league already has an exciting feel to it and I am sure I am not alone in looking forward to the coming weeks.

Warren

NRFL Ellerslie First Team Head Coach