

Giants' Match Reports

LANGTON GREEN GIANTS STATISTIC 2010/11

(inclusive of all league matches and fiestas)

Played: 57 Won: 39 Drew: 13 Lost: 5 Scored: 128 Conceded: 28

Scorers: Brodie (40), Bertie (36) Tom (23) Sid (20) Jack (2) James (2) Henry (2) Sam (1) Nicholas (1) Own Goal (1)

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Saturday 11th June 2011 – Rusthall fiesta

Paddock Wood 0 – 6 Langton Giants

Bertie x 3, Sid x 2, Brodie

So this is it, the final games of the season, with a short trip to Rusthall. The first game saw us pass the ball better than we have all season, resulting in a deluge of goals. Bertie set of Sid for the first, then Sid turned provider with a great cross for Brodie to make it two nil. The rolls were reversed a minute later when Brodie sent Sid away who finished neatly for his second of the game. Paddock Wood broke through, and it took an excellent and brave save from Nicholas to keep the clean sheet. Henry was tackling all over the pitch, as was James and it was from one of their tackles Bertie broke free to score from an impossible angle. In the closing minutes Bertie helped himself to two more goals, one a cracking strike from the edge of the box to complete the scoring.

Ridgeway Rockets 0 – 2 Langton Giants

Sid, Brodie

The game was well contested, with Sam and Jack particularly combative in defence and Henry and Tom pushing the team forward. Nicholas hit a cracking long goal-kick, that Tom did well to nod on for Sid who hit an absolutely stunning volley from a full 25 yards that rocketed into the top corner, the goal of the day, the goal of any day! Ridgeway fought hard and once again Nicholas was called into action to keep them out. Sam made a great goal saving tackle which fell to Bertie, who hit a great pass forward to James who had to run hard to keep it in. James stayed calm, controlled the ball and waited for his team mates to join him. The first boy to make it up to him was Brodie, and James picked him out inch perfectly with a peach of a cross that Brodie slammed home with a first time half-volley and the Giants had won two nil.

Rusthall Minis 0 – 4 Langton Giants

Bertie x 2, Tom, Brodie

For once, the Giants played against a team even smaller than them, as the courageous little Minis (playing a year up as the Giants had done at this event last year) fought very hard. Tom went on a great run and scored with a fine shot, he then almost scored with his left foot which the minis keeper did well to save, only to see Brodie slot in the rebound. Sam played up front for the second half and did really well, and it was his pass that setup Bertie for a goal, which he then followed up with another one from a well hit low shot. Henry and Jack again ran the midfield with great tackling and energy.

Forresters 4 – 0 Langton Giants

A strong and physical Forresters team played very well, and after conceding an early goal our boys seemed a bit shell shocked and were quickly 3 down. In the second half the boys played a lot better and made much more of a game of it, only to concede a 4th on the break. James stood firm in goal and had no chance with any of the goals, and by the end of the game the Giants were more that matching their opponents. No tears, no tantrums, beaten by a better side on the day, it happens.

East Grinstead Meads Inter 1 – 0 Langton Giants

For the first time ever, the Giants lost two in a row, but this was a far more enjoyable match against a very nice team who we have played 4 times this season. In the previous 3 games we had won 2 and drawn 1, but each was very close and it was fair that East Grinstead got a win against us as they have been a little unlucky in the other games. Sam did a great job in goal, with no chance for the winner and Tom was incredibly unlucky not to score with his left foot after a great shot that was brilliantly blocked.

Ebbsfleet 0 – 0 Langton Giants

Ignore the nil nil score line, this was an excellent game of football, probably the Giants best of the day against an excellent Ebbsfleet team, it was a really close match up all over the pitch. Bertie had gone in goal as he'd injured his knee and made a couple of very good saves. James, Jack and Henry worked their socks off and Sam was the always reliable last line of defence. The player of the match though was Brodie, who was like a boy possessed tackling anything that moved and a constant threat going forward. Brilliant game of football.

Rusthall United 0 – 1 Langton Giants

Sid

It was only right that the Giants signed off with a win, and what a win it was. Sid hit the crossbar with a great strike just seconds after he's made a brilliant tackle in his own half! He wasn't to be denied long though, as he slotted home the winning goal from a difficult angle. James and Henry kept things tight, and Brodie, Jack and Tom got back to help out their defenders as Rusthall put a lot of pressure as the game came to a close. They would have got a draw too, had it not been for an absolutely stunning save from Bertie, which he then followed up with a couple of other very good blocks.

Sunday 5th June 2011 – Langton Green Fiesta

Langton Giants 5 – 0 Langton Monsters

Bertie, Brodie, Henry, James, Tom

The Giants aren't having much luck with weather at the moment. After a beautiful sunny day with perfect blue sky on the Saturday, the constant rain and cold wind made for pretty difficult conditions for all the teams. The first game saw us take on our good friends the Langton Monsters. The Monsters are where we were a year ago, playing in Fiesta's against boys a year older, and this was their first ever game. Bertie and Brodie opened the scoring with good strikes, and after seeing a good shot well saved by the Monsters 'keeper, Henry added a third with an excellent hard hit shot. The second half saw the Monsters already showing signs of great improvement, and the Giants weren't having things their own way. With just a couple of minutes remaining however, James struck a cracking effort that was his first ever goal for the team and he thoroughly deserved the cheering he received from team mates and supporters alike. Some might say his first ever goal was a result of wearing the inspirational Arsenal away kit lent to him by Bertie (we had a colour clash and had to change from the usual yellow & green), but whatever the reason, it was a brilliant goal! Tom wrapped up the scoring with a fine goal of his own, and the Monsters kept fighting to the very end and all the Giants players were delighted when they managed to get their first ever point in the next game, well done Monsters.

Langton Giants 0 – 0 East Grinstead Meads

Having only ever had two nil-nil draws in their short history, the Giants suddenly became experts in the art today! Sid, Brodie and Tom all had good chances to grab a winner, usually from Bertie's delivery but none were able to take them despite very good efforts. Sam, Henry, Jack and Nicholas were not to be passed at the back, and James (still buzzing from his goal) secured a clean sheet.

Langton Giants 2 – 0 Ridgeway Rockets

Ridgeway are always a competitive opponent and this was no exception. The scoreline makes the game seem far more comfortable than it was. At nil nil, 'last man Sam' twice came to the rescue with brilliant tackles and clearances. Henry was playing in midfield and won the ball well, before passing out to the left to Bertie who beat his defender and whipped in the perfect cross for Sid to slam home with a great finish. Tom then sent Sid away who rounded the 'keeper to grab his second and reaffirm his 'Two Goal Sid' nickname!

Langton Giants 0-0 Sevenoaks Town

If the Ridgeway game was competitive, the Sevenoaks game was downright hard! A very good team with a much bigger set of boys for the Giants to face up to, but they did so with great success. A draw was probably the fair result, but if anything the Giants just about had the better chances, with an excellent one falling to Tom right at the death after he'd gone on an amazing run and was unlucky not to grab a winner. Once again, Sam was timing his interceptions perfectly and Jack, Henry and James were tackling like demons.

Langton Giants 0 – 0 Wadhurst United

This was the nil-nil that was undoubtedly the win that got away. How we failed to score in this game was almost unexplainable. Chance after chance went begging, Brodie, Tom, Bertie, Sid, James and Henry all went close as the Giants dominated the game but didn't get the

break their great play deserved. Victims of the short match format in this one (4 mins each way). That said, despite their dominance, there was one moment where Wadhurst very nearly caught the Giants out on the break as they'd all streamed forward looking for the winner. Just when it looked like they were clear through on goal, Nicholas appeared from nowhere and put in a challenge Bobby Moore would have been proud of, winning the ball cleanly with a very brave sliding tackle.

Langton Giants 3 – 1 Chipstead

James, Sid, Brodie

Talk about the floodgates have opened..... not content with getting his first ever goal for the Giants earlier in the day, James again grabbed the glory with a quite brilliant strike from an equally brilliant and selfless pass from Jack. After taking the lead however, the Giants stopped passing the ball and started dribbling too much. It was from trying this on the edge of their own box that they were caught out, and despite a fantastic save from Sam, Chipstead equalised when their player was first to the rebound. After being reminded to pass the ball at half time, the boys went out and produced their best football of the day in the second half. Brodie sent Sid through who finished superbly and then Brodie grabbed a goal of his own from the edge of the box.

Langton Giants 0 – 0 Broad Oak & Horam

So after only 2 nil-nil draws in their previous 45 games, the Giants finished today with their 4th in 7 matches! Another one where they had the chances to win it, especially in the last few minutes but it wasn't to be.

Despite the weather though, and the stream of nil nil draws, it was another excellent days football and the boys can again be very proud of themselves at their performances. The bit that made their manager most proud though, was after an accidental foul by Bertie on a Broad Oak player, both he and 'Captain' Nicholas both bent over the stricken lad to make sure he was OK, and as the oppositions manager commented 'they're a very sporting lot your boys'.

Medals for all the the boys, well deserved, and a trophy for the manager from the boys themselves that has left him beaming.

Saturday 28th May 2011 – Sussex Sixes Football Tournament

Uckfield Grasshoppers Green 0 – 4 Langton Giants

Brodie x 2, Jack, Bertie

On a windy and cold Saturday afternoon, the Giants continued their excellent recent form, despite missing three key players. Jack got the team off to a good start by sprinting away from the Uckfield defenders and finishing brilliantly into the corner to give the boys an early lead. This was soon added to with two good goals from Brodie, the second from a great pass from Bertie. It was the excellent Bertie who wrapped up the scoring, latching onto an incredible goal kick from James that put him clean through with one bounce! Sam showed how much he's improved in recent weeks with some calm touches in defence and Nicholas was putting in crunching tackles everywhere.

Jarvis Brook Juniors 0 – 3 Langton Giants

Bertie x 2, O.G

Another strong performance from the boys, showing some excellent passing. Max was guesting for us again, and was playing very well. It was a Max tackle that landed at Nicholas' feet who put in a fantastic pass that put Bertie through to finish excellently by nut-megging the Jarvis Brook 'keeper. Jack went on a strong run, winning a corner which Bertie swung in, that a defender was unfortunate to put into the back of his own net. Brodie lobbed the 'keeper and Bertie followed it in to wrap up the scoring with his second of the match.

Hove Park Colts 1 – 0 Langton Giants

The boys fell to only their third defeat in 45 games this season, against a well organised Hove Park team. That said, the boys can consider themselves quite unlucky to do so, particularly James, who struck a well hit shot that appeared to cross the line but wasn't given. It was a shame, as Max, Jack and Bertie also all went close and Sam continued to defend resolutely. Nicholas was brave as always in goal, but stood no chance with the winning goal.

Marle Place Wanderers 0 – 3 Langton Giants

Bertie x 2, Brodie

The beauty of fiestas is that when you lose a game, you can instantly get back on the pitch and make up for it, and how the boys did ! Sam controlled the ball beautifully, and then put Brodie through on goal. He took the chance early and struck it well, only to see the ball bounce back from the crossbar. The Giants didn't have to wait long however, with Bertie soon finding the net with a good run and finish into the bottom corner. Brodie then got his goal from a great pass by Jack, and Bertie again completed the scoring with a fine example of alertness, taking advantage of a goalkeeping error. James again came close to scoring, with an excellent strike that the 'keeper did well to save.

Uckfield Grasshoppers Blue 1 – 4 Langton Giants

Brodie x 2, Bertie x 2

What a cracking game to finish another great days play, with the fastest possible start! Brodie sent the ball high into the box from the kick off, catching the Uckfield defence off guard, and Bertie was able to pick up the loose ball and slam it home. From then on, Nicholas set the tone with several determined tackles, and Max was showing some great dribbling skills. Jack was his usual hi-energy self, and won the ball for Bertie who put in a brilliant ball for Brodie to slam into the bottom corner at the second attempt. With one half of football remaining in the day, and two nil up, all the boys were encouraged to push forward and this backfired when the Uckfield team were able to break and nab a well taken goal that gave new goalkeeper Sam no chance. Any concerns that the Giants may get pegged back level were soon gone, as Brodie somehow managed to score from the half-way line with the kick-off !! The last goal of the day went to Bertie, which was entirely appropriate as he had been the outstanding player of the day, scoring and setting up goals all day long.

Well done boys, fantastic day had by all, with special thanks to Max for helping us out again.

Saturday 14th May 2011 - Crowborough Athletic Fiesta

Rotherfield Rovers 0 – 3 Langton Giants

Brodie, Bertie, Tom

Another Saturday, another fiesta, another fun day for all. The boys got off to a great start, passing the ball and attacking from the very start, and the first goal was a gem. Bertie went on a mazy run down the left wing, beat a couple of players and delivered a great early cross, that Sid had the presence of mind to nudge onto the on-rushing Brodie who let fly with a ferocious drive that flew into the top corner. Henry, Nicholas and Sam were their usual reliable selves, winning all their tackles and Jack was pushing the team forward with his constant effort and running. The second goal came from a very good finish with his right foot from Bertie, and Tom ran free after a Brodie drag back and finished brilliantly to wrap up the scoring.

Jarvis Brook Warriors 0 – 1 Langton Giants

Bertie

Although the scoreline suggests otherwise, this game was very similar to the first, with the Giants dominating the game but this time unable to convert their chances into goals. Once again the likes of Sam, Nicholas, Jack and Henry were providing the tackling and energy that meant the boys kept winning the ball back quickly whenever they lost it. Brodie, Sid and Tom all had chances well saved and with just a few minutes remaining it looked like it was going to end as a frustrating draw. Nicholas had other ideas however, and pushing forward from defence, won an excellent tackle on the edge of the box, then hit a fierce shot that the 'keeper did very well to block, but was unable to stop Bertie from following up the rebound and tucking in the richly deserved winning goal.

Crowborough Athletic Colts 0 – 3 Langton Giants

Tom, Bertie, Sid

After being a bit of a spectator in the first two games in goal (thanks to his team mates great defending) James stepped into the defence and immediately had an impact, with some great tackling and passing, and bringing a sense of calmness to the team. It was from a James tackle, that Tom was able to break free and score a brilliant individual effort, forcing his way past a couple of defenders and hitting the ball high into the net. If that was a great goal, what followed was equally as brilliant, this time from Bertie, who hit the sweetest of shots with his trusty left foot that went like a rocket into the corner of the net. Brodie sent Jack away down the left who selflessly passed the ball to Sid, who finished with a fantastic strike of his own, and was unlucky not to add another when his shot came back off the cross bar after a great pass from Henry.

Linfield Youth 0 – 0 Langton Giants

It has become obvious during the morning, that the final two games of the day were likely to be the toughest the boys would face, and so it proved. Against a very good Linfield team, the boys worked their socks off and had several chances to pinch a winner but Brodie, Bertie,

Tom, Sid and Jack all saw shots well saved, with James, Henry and Sam all tackling like their lives depended on it to keep Linfield out. Twice though, they did get through, and on both occasions Nicholas made outstanding saves, one of which was high above his head and he showed great ability to get a hand to it. This was only the second time in 40 games the Giants have been involved in a 0-0 draw, and they were very grateful to Nicholas for protecting our nil !

Chipstead Eagles 1 – 1 Langton Giants

Bertie

What a cracking game to finish the fiesta with! A proper game of football, with two well matched teams attacking each other at every opportunity. The Giants took an early lead, when Sid won a corner, and Bertie amazingly swerved the ball in directly from it !!!! After the goal though, Chipstead had a very good spell, and deservedly equalised with a good strike after a bit of a goal mouth scramble (only the second goal the Giants have conceded in their last 16 games!). The rest of the game was end-to-end excitement, with both teams having excellent chances to win the game but the final score of 1-1 was the right result, with neither team deserving to lose. Tom, Brodie and Sid all went close, and both goalkeepers (Sam for us) made some very good saves. Henry made the tackle of the day, that saw him clear the ball and set up Tom in one action, Jack set up Tom for another chance with a great pass and James and Brodie both made brilliant tackles in the last few minutes to ensure they didn't concede a second.

So today's record was a very decent, Played 5, Won 3, Drew 2, Lost 0, Scored 8, Conceded 1.

Well done boys!

Saturday 7th May 2011 - Old Town Youth Football Fiesta

Eastbourne Town Youth Yellow 0 – 7 Langton Giants

Tom x 3, Bertie x 3, Sam

The first fiesta of the summer saw the Giants get off to a perfect start with a resounding win, the biggest of the season. Tom was playing up front, and took full advantage with an excellent first half hatrick, including one with his left foot, that was matched by a brilliant hatrick of his own from Bertie, with both boys taking their goals very well following some fine team work and passing from their team mates. For all the brilliance of Tom's and Bertie's goals, without question the best moment and biggest cheer of the day came with a couple of minutes left..... SAM SCORED!!!..... and what a goal it was. Jack put in a great tackle, setting Brodie away down the right, who beat two players before hitting a great shot that came back off the cross-bar..... as the defenders tried to clear the ball, Sam calmly hooked the ball back over his shoulder and into the the back of the net. The parents cheered, the manager leapt (and twisted his knee on landing, but it was worth it) and Sam ran away in celebration faster than any Giant has ran at any point all season. Eventually his team mates caught him and jumped on him to give him the plaudits his goal deserved. WELL DONE SAM!

St Margarets 0 – 2 Langton Giants

Tom x 2

In a much more even contest, the boys responded brilliantly. Alfred, a player from our friends the Redhawks, was guesting for the Giants today as a few players were missing, and this was the game when he started to really influence the matches with some outstanding passing. It was from two of these passes that Tom added another couple of goals to his growing total. Another point of note from this match was the excellent tackling from birthday boy Jack, doing his shiny new boots proud! James was very unlucky not to score, with a good effort after a great run and cross from Bertie. The boys ran out deserving winners, which would have been by more were it not for an excellent goalkeeping performance by the St Margarets 'keeper, keeping out good shots from Alfred, Brodie and Bertie.

Eastbourne Borough Youth Red 0 – 3 Langton Giants

Tom x2, Brodie

More great passing, more great goals! Right at the start Tom hit the post, but then got his goal to set the boys off and running. Sam and Jack were tackling like demons, and James was as solid as always in goal. The second half saw a stunning goal from Brodie, finding the top corner from the edge of the area, and more top class passing from Alfred, who set up Tom's second and the teams third with a great cross from the right.

Eastbourne Town Youth Blue 0 – 2 Langton Giants

Tom, Bertie

We knew before the game kicked off, that this was likely to be our toughest game against a team that had won games 5-1 and 6-1 earlier in the day, and so it proved with the Giants starting off on the back foot, and for the first time all day being put under some defensive pressure. Jack and James stayed firm, and Bertie, Brodie and Alfred were getting back excellently when needed to help out. The Giants conceded a free-kick from just outside the area, and the shot was hit hard and high and was aiming for the top corner. It looked for all the world that the Giants were about to concede their first goal of the day, when Sam, now in goal, appeared from nowhere and made a brilliant save. This seemed to give the boys a great lift, and from the resulting goal-kick, Sam set Tom away who ran forward and slotted home yet another goal, quickly followed by a great goal from Bertie. Alfred, Brodie and James all went close but were denied by more good goalkeeping. The team kept their shape throughout, and ran out deserved winners against a good team.

Eastbourne Borough Youth Black 0 – 2 Langton Giants

Tom, Bertie

The last game saw some of the best passing of the day, with Alfred and Brodie pulling the strings, and Tom & Bertie getting the goals (Tom getting his NINTH of the day!). James again went close, and Jack had a good shot charged down.

Just about the perfect morning, the sun even shone towards the end of the day, with the team finishing Played 5, Won 5, Scored 16, conceded 0, leading to some very generous comments from the tournament organisers about the quality of football shown by the Giants and what a credit to their club they are. I agree entirely, every single one of them were fantastic, with a special mention for Alfred for slotting into the team so easily and playing such a big part in a successful day.

Saturday 30th April 2011

Langton Giants 3 – 0 Wadhurst United Panthers

Sid x 2, Brodie

Langton Giants 4 – 1 Wadhurst United Jaguars

Brodie x 2, Bertie, Jack

What a way to end the league campaign with two thumping victories over a pair of very decent Wadhurst teams who played some good football themselves. The first match started with Sid on fire, quickly living up to his nickname with two quickly, and well taken goals (one with his left foot) following excellent build up play from Bertie and Tom. The final goal of the game came just before half time, and was a landmark goal for the Giants, as Brodie scored the teams first ever headed goal, with a bullet header from a fine Bertie corner. With such a handsome half time lead, the players swapped around for the second half, with the strikers going in defence and vice versa. The boys continued to pass the ball beautifully, and Sam was very unlucky not to score from a well hit shot, with James, Jack and Henry running the midfield. James was in midfield, after a faultless first half in goal, giving Bertie the gloves for the second half, and he made two magnificent saves to ensure the victory.

The second game was much like the first, with the boys passing reaching new heights. The scoring was opened by Brodie, with a thumping volley into the top corner from the edge of the box after some great play by Sid. James was now back in goal, and made a few very smart saves and commanded his box brilliantly. In a two minute spell towards the end of the half, the Giants played what can only be described as total football. It started with a Wadhurst corner, which Henry cleared brilliantly down the left to Jack, who passed first time to Bertie, who in turn crossed first time to a sprinting, Sid who knocked it onto Brodie to finish majestically into the bottom corner.... end to end, 5 players, 5 touches, 1 goal. Almost immediately, a nearly exact replica took place, with Tom beating two players down the left, following it up with a perfect pass to Sid, who selflessly rolled the ball into Bertie's path for him to sweep home a fantastic 3rd goal. Again, the players were switched around at half time, with there being little disruption to the play. Henry was tackling everyone (including his own team mates on occasion!), Sam was working his socks off, and Tom was bossing midfield. Brodie was playing in defence, but this didn't stop him from forcing the Wadhurst 'keeper into a scrambling save with a thunderous free kick from the half-way line!! Wadhurst did manage to break through and get a well deserved goal back that James had no chance with, but the biggest cheer of the afternoon came when the scoring was finished off with a superb individual goal from Jack, who forced his way passed two defenders before nutmegging the 'keeper with his left foot for his first ever goal for the Giants! Well done Jack!

So the Giants finish the league season with a record of 18 wins, 7 draws, 2 defeats.... scored 57, conceded 19. A fantastic effort that all the boys should be very proud of. Well done to you all, and roll on the fiestas!

Saturday 16th April 2011 - Crowborough League Annual Jamboree

Jarvis Brook Warriors 0 – 4 Langton Giants

Brodie x2, Tom, Bertie

What a fantastic set of performances it was from the Giants today at the Crowborough League Jamboree under 7 tournament. All the boys were brilliant, with tremendous passing being the major feature of all the games. The first game saw the Giants up 3 nil against Jarvis Brook Warriors within just a few minutes, starting with a Beckham-esq free-kick into the top corner from Brodie, followed by a great strike through a crowded defence from Tom, and Brodie getting his second with a tidy finish from a tight angle. Bertie wrapped up the scoring in style with a great goal. Special mention also to Nicholas for a truly fantastic save from close range to keep a clean sheet.

Jarvis Brook Dragons 0 – 2 Langton Giants

Tom, Bertie

It took the Giants a little longer to get going in the second game, with no early goals this time. With a few regular players missing, Max was making his debut for the team today, and this was the game where he really got into the flow of the team. Him and Jack were everywhere, tackling, passing, and running all over the pitch. Sam was proving to be a solid last line of defence which allowed Tom, Brodie and Bertie to push forward at will. It was Tom and Bertie who got the winning goals, both with very good shots that gave the oppositions 'keeper no chance at all

Tonbridge Junior Ferrari 0 – 1 Langton Giants

Bertie

This was by far the hardest game of the day, as the always competitive Tonbridge Juniors provided a difficult challenge. The boys stepped up their game however, and the scoreline didn't reflect the performance as the Giants dominated the game. Max was incredibly unlucky with a fabulous strike that almost broke the crossbar, Brodie had a good shot tipped onto the post, and Tom and Bertie both went close before Bertie won the game with a poachers goal WITH HIS RIGHT FOOT. Again, it was the tackling and energy from Jack, Max and Sam that gave the Giants the platform to create chances, and Nicholas finished his stint in goal with three very well earned clean sheets.

Rusthall Lions 0 – 2 Langton Giants

Brodie x 2

The sun came out for the last game of the day, and the boys played with a smile on their face and a skip in their step. The passing was better than it ever was, and the goals were a result of

that passing. The first saw a three boy (Jack, Max, Tom) passing move that sent Brodie on his way, who calmly rounded the 'keeper before slotting in with his left foot. The second was a brilliant Fabregas-like pass from Nicholas, again setting up Brodie to round up the scoring for the match, and the day. Nicholas, Jack and Max all went close to scoring, and Tom was running rings round the Rusthall defenders. Bertie played in goal this game, and made an excellent save from a very difficult high bounce.

So the day ended with the Giants having played 4, scored 9, conceded 0 and medals for all the boys. Despite all the goals and clean sheets, there was one piece of play that highlighted how much the team has improved over the season more than anything. Starting with Nicholas in goal, who took a goal kick straight to Jack, who played a great ball down the left wing to Bertie who in turned delivered a stunning cross that Brodie just couldn't get a foot on. It was wonderful passing and movement that made their manager very proud!

Saturday 9th April 2011

Langton Devils 1 – 3 Langton Giants

Tom, Sid, Brodie

Ashurst Wood 1 – 1 Langton Giants

Henry

Another excellent morning on a sunny day, saw two cracking matches for the Giants. First of all we played against fellow Langton Green side the Devils. The Giants started well, with some excellent passing that soon brought the opening goal from Tom, with a sweet finish into the bottom corner. Bertie was creating lots of problems down the left hand side and Sid's tireless running upfront brought its just deserts when he slotted home the second following a good effort from Brodie. The second half saw some much improved play from the Devils as they came back into the game very well, and got a deserved goal back from a tight angle to bring them back into the match. Brodie settled the Giants nerves with a great strike from distance that beat the brave Devils keeper. Sam and Jack defended expertly and Nicholas made a couple of very good saves to ensure the Giants won the game.

The second match was a classic example of a "game of two halves" as the Giants struggled in the first half playing up the slope, which saw them fall behind to a very well taken goal by Ashurst Wood. The highlight of that half for the Giants was an outrageous piece of skill from Brodie which saw him control the ball, lob the defender with the outside of his foot and then collect it the other side of him with a deft first touch. The second half was dominated by the Giants, with some excellent passing by all the boys. Bertie and Sid were a constant attacking threat, and Nicholas, Sam and Jack defended resolutely, but the half belonged to Henry, who won every tackle, made some great passes and scored an absolute screamer from outside the box for his first ever goal for the Giants. Brodie came close to winning the game twice, one following some excellent play by Sid and Bertie, and one from a long distance strike that was scrambled away by the Ashurst 'keeper. All in all though the 1-1 draw was the fair result as neither team deserved to lose this one.

A very special mention for Henry and Tom, both of whom selflessly offered to miss one of the Giants games today to help out the Langton Green Redhawks who were a player short for their matches against the same opponents. Thank you both, and well done.

Saturday 2nd April 2011

Langton Giants 1 – 0 Tonbridge Porsche

Brodie

Langton Giants 1 – 0 Tonbridge Ferrari

Tom

What a difference a bit of sunshine makes! It was a glorious morning as the Giants welcomed their friends from Tonbridge Juniors. This was to be the 5th and 6th games between the teams this season and each of them have been competitive and played in a good spirit. The first game saw the Giants pass the ball better than ever, dominating possession and creating several good chances. Some good goalkeeping and the post kept, Sid, Brodie and Bertie out after some good efforts. Sam, Henry and James ensured that Nicholas had very little to do in goal with excellent defending. Bertie went on a mazy run down the left hand side, beating 3 defenders before hitting a sweet shot that came back off the post, which Brodie followed up with a tidy finish from a tight angle. Brodie very nearly doubled his, and the teams, goal tally with a sweetly hit shot directly from a free-kick, that was inches over the bar. A good win against a good side.

The second game was just as good. James went in goal, with Nicholas moving to defence where he excelled, tackling like his life depended on it. James in goal too, was outstanding with three good saves and coming out to claim the ball to deny the Tonbridge attackers. Jack and Henry were everywhere, and Sid ran his socks off up front and was again incredibly unlucky not to score, as was Jack with a couple of fine shots that were well saved. Brodie's passing in the middle of the pitch was controlling the game, setting the ever energetic Bertie and Tom away in attack. Bertie passed to Tom who attacked down the left wing delivering an excellent left-footed cross which Sid connected with brilliantly, only to see his effort clear the bar. Sam made two last ditch tackles and was a rock at the back. It was from a sublime through ball from Brodie, that Tom won the game with a very neat finish into the bottom corner.

An excellent morning, all the boys deserve an awful lot of credit for their passing and effort today.

Saturday 19th March 2011

Langton Giants 1 – 1 East Grinstead Inter

Bertie

Langton Giants 0 – 3 East Grinstead AC

Bit of a bad day at the office for the mighty Giants today, after a three week wait for games. The first game saw the giants start slowly, but some excellent passing towards the end of the first half was rewarded with a couple of decent chances that wouldn't quite go in. In fact, the team were indebted to goalkeeper Nicholas for making a brilliant save to keep the score 0-0 at half time. The second half started off badly however, when the visitors took the lead, scoring a good goal, despite another good save from Nicholas. The boys then came to life, with Jack, Sam, James and Henry putting some crunching tackles in, and Tom pushing the team forward from midfield. Brodie won a tackle in the middle of the pitch and sent Bertie away who beat a defender before slotting the ball in at the near post to equalise. The last few minutes saw the Giants trying for a winner, but to no avail and this time were grateful to Sam for a goal line clearance to save them from an undeserved defeat.

The second game was one of those games where everything that could have gone wrong did! We conceded right at the start of the game, despite an outstanding save from James who had now gone in goal, with them following up the rebound. The second half saw the Giants dominate the game, pushing forward at every opportunity but the ball just wouldn't fall for them. Sid worked his socks off up front, winning a penalty that was well saved and then immediately bringing another save out of the 'keeper with a great effort. To top it all, the visitors scored two more goals on the breakaway as the Giants continued to push forward but ran out of steam. East Grinstead deserved the win, as they had defended well and taken their chances, but undoubtedly the final scoreline was harsh on the Giants, a thought shared by the manager of their team afterwards.

What was great to see though was the dignity with which the boys accepted the defeat, no tears or tantrums, just a few glum faces, lots of mud and a determination to do better next time!

Saturday 26th February 2011

Pembury Gunners 0 – 4 Langton Giants

Tom x3, Bertie

Pembury Broncos 2 – 2 Langton Giants

Brodie, Bertie

Phew, what a morning! The Giants travelled to Pembury for a very early kick-off for what turned out to be a very eventful couple of games. The first match saw the boys kicking-up a slope in the first half, but despite this, taking the lead when Tom was fouled in the box to earn a penalty, which he then picked himself up to take and slot it carefully into the bottom corner. The second half saw the Giants dominate the game, with the defensive might of Henry, Sam, James and Jack ensuring the ball stayed firmly in the Pembury half, with Nicholas looking as solid as always in goal on the rare occasion the defence was breached. These boys provided the platform for Bertie, Sid, Brodie and Tom to run the Pembury defence ragged, with chance after chance being created, resulting in Tom becoming the Giants first ever hat-trick hero with two more great goals and Bertie collecting the goal his outstanding wing play deserved.

The second game saw the Giants come back to earth with a bump, conceding twice in a disjointed first half performance. Just before half time, the boys started to get themselves back together, with Nicholas going close with a fierce strike that was well save by the Pembury 'keeper and then Brodie hitting a stunning shot in to the top corner to give them hope for the second half. That second half was the best the Giants have played all season. The ball didn't leave the Pembury half of the pitch at all, with constant pressure coming from brilliant wing-play from Bertie, Tom dominating the midfield, Sid making numerous intelligent runs and Brodie's first class dead ball delivery. Amazingly, the ball only ended up in the back of the Pembury net once more, a fine finish from Bertie, but Sid, Tom, Brodie, Henry and Jack can all consider themselves unlucky not to score as they each had goal bound shots blocked with various parts of various Pembury players bodies.

As well as the first game went, it was the second game that made the Giants manager most proud, with all nine boys showing amazing character and determination not to lose a game that they absolutely didn't deserve to.

In no order whatsoever..... Nicholas, Sam, Bertie, Henry, Brodie, Tom, James, Jack and Sid..... take a bow.

Saturday 19th February 2011

Langton Giants 3 – 0 Rusthall

Sid x 2, Brodie

It was a relief that today's match was able to go ahead given the heavy rain, and it certainly made for a muddy pitch. Rusthall were short of a few players due to half-term and sickness, and were only able to field one team, so we agreed to one full formal game, and then have a bit of a fun kick-about afterwards. Despite the little legs on a heavy and sloping pitch, both teams played some excellent football. Sid lived up to his "two-goal-Sid" nickname with two great finishes, both following some selfless play from his team mates Tom and Bertie. An excellent strong run down the left hand side by Tom was matched by his excellent cross leaving Brodie with the simplest of finishes with his left foot and the Giants ended the half 3 nil up.

There were no further goals in the second half, primarily thanks to an improved performance by Rusthall and some fine goalkeeping. Jack and Nicholas ran themselves into the ground, covering every blade of grass (where there was some) with James and Sam standing firm in defence. Taking the conditions into account, it was a very good performance with some decent passing by all the boys.

The kick about afterwards was a lot of fun, with some cracking sliding tackles in the mud/puddles, outstanding individual goals from Sid, Bertie and Tom, but the highlight was unquestionably a superb goal from Nicholas, finishing with aplomb after a strong run. His attempt at an understated celebration was somewhat undone though by his team mates running to congratulate him, with one of them even trying to pick him up!

A very wet, cold, muddy, but most of all fun Saturday morning, and I'd like to thank to all the parents and grandparents who braved the weather to support the boys, especially those who came early to help set up the pitches.

Saturday 5th February 2011

Langton Giants 4 – 1 Ridgeway Rockets

Bertie x 2, Brodie, Sid

Langton Giants 0 – 0 Ridgeway Galaxy

So after a long winter break due to the weather, the Giants finally took to the pitch again after waiting for 2 months to do so! On a wet and windy day on very muddy pitches the boys did very well, even if they understandably looked a bit rusty at times. The first game saw them get off to a great start, with the first half turning into the Bertie Show as he scored, not one, but TWO fantastic individual goals that saw him beat several defenders at speed before finishing in style, and he was ably supported by Sid who grabbed an excellent goal from the edge of the area, following some great tackling by Jack to give the Giants an 3 nil lead. There was just time before the break for Ridgeway to grab a deserved goal of their own to make it 3-1 at half time. The second half saw some changes, with Bertie going in goal and Nicholas going up front. Bertie pulled off a great save and Nicholas hit the post with a great effort to show how adaptable the boys can be. Henry, James, Sam and Tom all put in strong tackles to control the defence and midfield. If the goals in the first half were fine individual efforts, the only goal of the second half was all about team work. Jack started it with another excellent tackle, Brodie picked up the loose ball and sent an excellent ball down the middle to set Sid away. Just as he was about to strike he was tackled excellently by the Ridgeway defender but Tom picked up the ball and sent a great cross to Brodie at the back-post who tucked away a left foot shot from an impossibly tight angle to wrap up the victory.

The second game was a far more frustrating game as despite dominating possession more than the first game, the Giants just couldn't find a way past a dogged Ridgeway defence, and when they did came up against a very good goalkeeper who made several top saves. The boys can be very proud of the way they kept going though, with Sam, James and Henry deserving special mention for keeping things tight when Ridgeway looked to break away and steal the win!

So a good re-start to the season, and lets hope the pitches have recovered a bit by the next games in two weeks!

Saturday 27th November

Tonbridge Porsches 2 – 2 Langton Giants

Brodie, Bertie

Tonbridge Ferraris 2 – 0 Langton Giants

On a freezing cold morning and hard pitch, we took on a very good Tonbridge Juniors club in two very competitive games without the influential Tom, who was missing due to illness. The first game saw us dominate possession in the first half but unable to find the net, and were thankful to a very brave save from Nicholas to ensure it was all square at half time. In the second half, Brodie had defrosted enough (he'd been too cold to play in the first half!) and his introduction had the desired effect when his shot found the top corner with practically his

first touch. Jack was everywhere and Sid was his usual selfless self, running hard to make room for others and causing the defence lots of trouble. It was from his efforts that he created the chance for the outstanding Bertie to fire home for a 2 nil lead. It was a deserved lead that could have been added to. Henry was taking charge in defence, ably supported by Sam and James. Unfortunately, in the closing stages, two goals from Tonbridge saw the Giants pulled back and unable to force the winning goal their play had deserved.

The second game saw it finally happen. In their 14th game of the season, the mighty Giants were beaten! It wasn't due to a lack of effort as the boys tried their hearts out, but a combination of good play from the Tonbridge team, several injuries to Giants players and a pinch of misfortune saw their unbeaten run come to an end. It was a closely fought game, with Jack and Henry making tackles galore that clearly had an effect on Sid who put in a crunching tackle of his own, on a boy twice his size! The first goal was a scrappy effort that we should have cleared but the second was a fine strike that we had no chance with. All the boys kept going until the end, and on another day could have got back into the game but it wasn't to be.

They should all be very proud of themselves however, to go that long unbeaten is great achievement, as was the sporting way they accepted their defeat today to a good Tonbridge side who deserved their victory. Lets hope its a bit warmer next game 😊

Saturday 21st November

Langton Giants 3 -0 Rusthall

Bertie, Brodie, Sid

Langton Giants 2 – 1 Langton Redhawks

Brodie x 2

The successful start to the season continued with two home wins. The first game saw the Giants up against local neighbours Rusthall on a slightly boggy pitch. The boys dominated possession in the attacking half but just couldn't find their way past a dogged visiting defence. Finally their determination and patience paid off when Bertie broke clear from an excellent pass from Sid to sweep home with a fine finish just before half time.

The second half saw more Giants domination and the second goal came from Brodie, who finished from a very tight angle with his left foot following up on a fine save by the Rusthall 'keeper from Brodie's previous effort. Henry, Sam and James were doing a fine job of keeping the defence tight and Jack was everywhere. Nicholas didn't have much to do in this game, but was faultless when called upon. In the middle of the park Tom pushed the team forward with strong tackling and thoughtfull passing and it was from one of his tackles that James was able to break free and set up Sid with a great finish to make it 3 nil. There was a bit of a scare in the last few minutes when Rusthall forced a couple of corners and Brodie produced a goal line clearance to secure the clean sheet. A great team effort from all the boys.

The second game saw the Giants play against their good friends from the Redhawks, and both teams deserve enormous credit for a very close match that the Giants just edged thanks to two goals from Brodie, both of which were set up brilliantly by Sam.

November 6 2010

Foresters A 1 – 2 Langton Giants

Bertie, Brodie

Foresters B 0 – 2 Langton Giants

Brodie, Sid

So the unbeaten run continues following an away trip to the always highly rated Foresters. The first game we came up against the best team we've faced to date, and the first half saw the Giants given a bit of a run around by a well organised and physically bigger side. It seemed only a matter of time until the home side would take the lead but the Giants boys held on magnificently, with some outstanding defending from the always dependable Henry, Sam, Tom and James with Nicholas proving to be a great last line of defence in goal, with several fine saves. With just a couple of minutes of the first half remaining, the Giants broke away, and after some excellent tackling from Jack and running from Sid, Bertie got a brilliant goal against the run of play, with a sublime finish when faced against the on rushing 'keeper. The Giants somehow went into the half 1 nil up. The second half saw the Giants confidence grow and Brodie reacted quickest to a defensive mix up to put the boys 2 nil up with a tidy finish. Nicholas showed great bravery making a save despite taking a kick to the knee, but had to be replaced by Bertie who in turn made a top save, only to see a Foresters player follow up the rebound to make it a nervous last few minutes, but thanks to a goal saving diving tackle from Sam in the last minute they'd done it. Phew.

The second match saw the Giants win a far more comfortable game against Foresters B team, with the boys passing the ball brilliantly and they thoroughly deserved the half time lead Brodie gave them after taking advantage of a goalkeeping error. Sid scored a brilliant second on the turn, following some good play by Tom and Nicholas diving onto the floor so not to get in the way of the finely struck effort! James moved up front and deserved a goal after a great run, but was denied by an excellent save by the Foresters 'keeper.

The boys deserve enormous credit for the way they played today, especially the way they defended in the first game and it was great to see Bertie and Sid get on the score sheet again after they'd both set up so many goals for their team mates in recent weeks.

October 30 2010

Paddock Wood 0 – 2 Langton Giants

Brodie x 2

Pembury 1 – 1 Langton Giants

Brodie

An early start for an away game on a damp pitch saw the Giants take a little while to get going in their first game, against Paddock Wood. With no Tom or James available, Sam made his debut and slotted in to defence, and played a big part in this hard earned victory, proving

to be a last line of defence that the home team just couldn't break down in a closely fought first half. After the break, the Giants improved their passing as they got more used to the very large pitch and were rewarded when Brodie slotted home from close range following an excellent cross from Bertie's mercurial left foot*. Jack was very effective with his high levels of energy in the middle of the park and Sid's selfless running up front created the space for Brodie to claim his second goal to secure the two nil win from Bertie's pass

The second game was the Giants biggest test of the season so far, against a well organised and physically strong Pembury team, and the Giants fell behind in the first half when the team lost their shape for a moment and were punished with a breakaway goal. In the second half the boys upped their game and once again it was the improved passing that was making the difference. Nicholas was now playing outfield, showing real determination, and Henry played his best game so far, with excellent tackling that drove the team forward. Bertie continued to tirelessly run at the Pembury defence, shrugging off tackles and producing great crosses time and time again. It looked like being the team's first defeat, when with just a minute left of the game, Bertie produced yet another great cross from the left and following some confusion in the Pembury defence caused by Sid's presence, Brodie shot high into the net to gain the draw that the team thoroughly deserved on their second half efforts.

Six wins and two draws to start the season is a brilliant return, but most importantly all the boys appear to be enjoying themselves and getting better as a team week on week.

* forgive me, I've always wanted to put that expression in a match report 😊

October 16 2010

Langton Giants 3 - 1 Tonbridge Junior Ferrari

Brodie 2, Tom

Langton Giants 2 – 0 Tonbridge Junior Porsche

Brodie, Tom

Two more fine victories for the Giants this weekend, at home against Tonbridge Juniors. The first match was against the previously unbeaten Ferraris and saw the Giants fall behind for the first time this season when a speculative effort was brilliantly saved by Nicholas in goal, only for their striker to follow up the rebound to take the lead against the run of play. The scoreline stayed that way until half-time. The second half saw the Giants start to pass the ball much better and their improved efforts were rewarded when Tom scored a good goal from just inside the box following some excellent work by Sid to level the game. From there on it was all Giants, and Brodie helped himself to two more goals to seal a hard earned victory 3-1. During the game, there was some fantastic defending from Henry, Tom, Jack and James, and Bertie ran the Ferrari defence ragged with his mazy runs.

The second game against Porsche saw the Giants dominate possession and every boy played superbly, Jack was particularly effective in midfield with some strong tackling and non-stop running. Again it was Tom and Brodie who came up with the goals, with some excellent passing between James, Nicholas (who was now playing up front) and Bertie leading to Brodie's strike. Sid was on the end of a hard tackle, but showed great character in coming

back on and asking to play in defence (?) rather than his usual striker role and did a fine job to help towards a 2-0 win. A special mention also for Bertie, who again put on a dazzling display including one cross that David Beckham would have been proud of!

Another fun and successful day for the Giants and a big thanks to all the parents who supported the boys and helped with the setting up of goals etc.

October 2nd 2010

Tenterden 0 – 1 Langton Giants

Tom

Tenterden 0 – 4 Langton Giants

Brodie 2, Sid 2

After earning a 5 – 0 win and a 1-1 draw in their opening games two weeks previous against Sevenoaks Town (two goals each for Bertie, Sid and Brodie), the mighty Langton Green Giants kept up their unbeaten record with two victories away at Tenterden.

The first game saw the Giants have lots of possession and chances but were unable to find the back of the net until a few minutes from the end when Tom scored a great winning goal after some excellent play from Bertie. Despite dominating the game, the Giants had goalkeeper Nicolas to thank for safeguarding the 0-1 win with two fine saves, one in either half.

The second game saw the Giants take the lead much earlier, in the opening seconds in fact after a training ground move direct from the kick off saw Brodie sweep home with his left foot following some excellent passing between Sid and Bertie. By half time the lead was 3 nil following two very well taken goals from Sid (living up to his nick-name of “Two Goal Sid”) and some great link up plays between all the boys. Brodie completed the scoring early in the second half with a good strike from outside the box, and almost managed the first ever Giants headed goal with a fine effort at the back post.

Tom and James moved up front, and played very well, James almost scoring a scorcher from a tight angle after beating two defenders. Alex made countless tackles and contributed enormously to the 0-4 win with his tenacity, energy and skill.

All in all a very good day, all the boys had fun and it was well worth the early start and long journey.

Langton Giants 1 -1 Sevenoaks Town 1

Bertie

Langton Giants 5-0 Sevenoaks Town

Brodie 2, Sid 2, Bertie