



## Wimbledon Website Match Report

Substitute Omar Bugiel struck a late winner to secure an impressive victory for Wimbledon in the Bristol Street Motors Trophy.

On a very encouraging night, the 1-0 scoreline versus Wycombe was far from the only major plus for the Dons as a host of players came into the team and staked their claims for more opportunities. Huseyin Biler was arguably the pick as he produced a storming display down the right side, showcasing the flying form that caught the eye when he first came through.

It was a great way to open our campaign in the competition, a much deserved victory against higher level opposition, as well as offering plenty of encouraging signs for the future - Riley Harbottle's assured debut display amongst them.

Johnnie Jackson shuffled his pack by making 10 changes for this match with Isaac Ogundere as the only player retained from the side that lost at Bromley. Wycombe were also aiming to get back on track after a weekend defeat, the Chairboys edged out in a seven-goal thriller at home to Birmingham City.

Both sides set out to attack from the outset and the Dons threatened in the 10th minute when James Tilley sent over a superb cross from the left, but Josh Kelly was just unable to connect. Tilley, who scored a fantastic goal in this competition last season – a stunning solo effort versus Oxford United – then cut inside and unleashed a shot that flashed over the crossbar.

As we approached the half hour mark, Wimbledon were continuing to produce impressive moments of attacking play, with the majority of the 1,542 crowd showing their appreciation. A flowing team move ended with Morgan Williams having a shot deflected wide, before Myles Hippolyte started a move that ended with him shooting off target with a rasping drive.

The Dons came very close in the 37th minute when Huseyin Biler sent over a fine cross that Kelly steered just wide from close-range. Biler had taken every opportunity to get forward when possible and he struck a powerful drive that Wycombe keeper Franco Ravizzoli watched all the way, before palming the ball to safety. At the other end, Wimbledon continued to defend well, restricting the visitors to very little, with John-Joe O'Toole impressing in his first match of the season.

Despite the 0-0 scoreline at half-time, the game had been anything but dull, with Wimbledon producing entertaining football that augured well for the season ahead as a host of players pressed their claims for more opportunities.

Wycombe came into it more in the second-half and Lewis Ward did very well to make a fine save. The Dons also needed Isaac Ogundere to track back well to get in a vital interception that prevented an almost certain goal. The visitors continued to attack as the second-half progressed and Ward made another save, denying Dan Udoh, but the flag was up for offside.

With just over 20 minutes left, Johnnie Jackson made his first changes of the night with Omar Bugiel and Ethan Sutcliffe replacing Josh Kelly and Riley Harbottle, who had produced an assured display on his Dons debut. Biler was an absolute bundle of energy on the night and he tested Ravizzoli with another powerful drive after finding space himself for a shot.

As we entered the final 10 minutes, it appeared that this match was fizzling out to a goalless draw with the penalty shoot-out that follows group stage draws in this competition. However, substitute Bugiel had other ideas - to the delight of everyone in yellow and blue. His winner followed hot-on-the-heels of a game-changing moment when Wycombe substitute Richard Kone missed an absolute sitter from close-range. Callum Maycock was the instigator of Wimbledon's winner, producing a fine cross that Joe Pigott diverted into the path of Bugiel, who made no mistake.

There was so nearly better to come when the impressive Biler powered down the right flank and cut the ball back for Pigott, but his shot was superbly saved by Ravizzoli.

Despite late Wycombe pressure, the Dons held firm for a deserved winning start to the competition.