

THE MATCH I SAW

Matt Lihou reports on the CI Schools League football match between Grammar School and Elizabeth College, which College won 3-1

College ease into their stride in the second half



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A DOMINANT second-half performance saw Elizabeth College come out on top of the first all-Guernsey clash of this season's CI Schools League. Matches against the Grammar School are traditionally tight affairs, and for the first 40-minute half on this occasion that trend continued. But after going in level at 1-1 at the break – probably a tad harsh on Grammar given the balance of play – College came out firing after the restart and controlled for the remainder. Peter Tautscher was the College hero with his brace turning around the initial deficit and but for some slightly wayward finishing, he could have ended up with a couple more. That nervousness in front of goal with his feet – both of his goals came with his head – was the only negative on a strong afternoon for the big No. 9. He led the line excellently in College's 4-3-3 system and was a handful all game as he harried defenders, held the ball up well but was also willing to turn and drive at goal. After an initial slow start from his midfield, Tautscher was supported by an excellent second-half display from Charlie Thompson:

But it wasn't until he got up to the pace of the game that College really dominated, as the vast majority of the clear chances in the opening 40 went Grammar's way. Even in the early stages, College had most of the possession but a couple of Tautscher surges aside, never looked like troubling Grammar keeper James Arrol. And on the counter-attack Grammar looked dangerous, with Jack Medhurst coming close from the right-hand side when he beat College keeper Andy Jensen, but not the crossbar. Grammar deserved the opener and it came on 23min., when excellent work from Medhurst and Ryan Cotterill allowed Jamie Blackham to nip ahead of Jensen and poke home. Grammar continued to look the more threatening in the final third, but were stung just on 33min. when Tautscher headed home captain Brendan Ferbrache's hanging cross. Ferbrache was another standout performer for College with his tireless work down the left and was a particular menace after half-time as the balance of play became one-sided. College were slightly fortunate to go in level as Grammar

squandered a couple of chances just before the break, but they made them pay after the restart. It was one-way traffic for the remainder and had it not been for the excellence of Grammar captain Rory Brown at centre-back, it would have been a heavier margin of defeat. On the rare occasion Grammar did put teasing balls behind their opponents' defence, substitute College keeper Sam Simon was virtually a sweeper in clearing any danger. As it was, Tautscher emphatically headed home from Ferbrache's corner moments into the half and they doubled their advantage when substitute Harry Gallienne rifled in brilliantly from a tight angle. Tautscher wasted chances to get his hat-trick, including one glorious opening when one-on-one with Arrol, but he had still done more than enough to give College their first win of the season.

TEAMS
Grammar: Arrol, Lee, Brown, de Carteret, Simpson-Cohen, Medhurst, Blackham. Subs (rolling): Ravenscroft, Gill, Wherry, Wickens, Philpott.
Elizabeth College: Jensen, T. Hunt, B. Hunt, A. Tautscher, Trebert, Falla, Whitmore, Thompson, du Feu, Ferbrache, P. Tautscher. Subs (rolling): Simon, Clayton, Morrissey, Gallienne.



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