

## Kinder Cup: School's cup competition culminates in 13-goal thriller final



An Elizabeth College player, right, attempts to block a St Sampson's High shot during the school's cup final at the Corbet Field.

(Picture by Peter Frankland, 12071842)

# College secure victory in entertaining cup final

BEN STRAKER was St Sampson's High's main tormentor as Elizabeth College secured a comeback victory in a remarkable Kinder Cup final encounter at the Corbet Field.

A total of 13 goals in just an hour's play does not even do it justice as but for the performances of both goalkeepers – particularly college's Hugo Harty – this could easily have been in the realms of 15-all.

But as it was, Harty's man-of-the-match display and Straker's four goals at the other end – as well as being involved in others – were the headlines of a pulsating encounter in the evening drizzle.

Harty was in the action plenty in the early stages but even he could not stop his college side from falling 2-0 down within three minutes of play.

Just 15 seconds had passed when Reese Jackson played a glorious through-ball that Harvey Lihou latched onto and slid home past Harty for an incredible start.

And when Charlie Platt smashed

### FOOTBALL

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**Elizabeth College ..... 10**  
**St Sampson's High..... 3**

home a 20-yard free-kick to double the lead, St Sampson's were in dream land – albeit only for a matter of seconds.

Straker showed composure to round St Sampson's keeper Luke Elmy, plus two defenders, before sliding home to get the Year 7 and 8 league champions back into the final.

And with the game still only 8min. old it was level at 2-2 as Straker fired an unstoppable effort from an angle past Elmy off the crossbar.

You would have been forgiven for thinking it would settle down but it did not, with the only reason the score remained deadlocked for so long being the form of both keepers.

Elmy made two cracking saves and Harty plenty more, including an in-

credible double-save that ended with him somehow tipping Jake Fletcher's effort over the bar.

The fact that the winning goalkeeper in a 10-3 scoreline would be named as man of the match speaks volumes for a match where attacks certainly won out.

Harty's contribution proved pivotal when his side went and scored three goals in as many minutes that swung a see-saw encounter firmly in college's favour at 5-2.

Straker completed his hat-trick to complete college's turnaround, before Max Eyton-Jones's cross-cum-shot caught out Elmy and flew into the top corner.

Charlie Kershaw completed the first-half scoring to put college firmly in control with that three-goal advantage, which got even better soon after half-time.

A superb James Kail strike looked to have sealed the win, although Alfie Bentley gave St Sampson's hope when he reduced the deficit back to 6-3 with

a cross that fortuitously went in.

Within seconds college had made it 7-3 through Kershaw after stunning work by the brilliant Straker to beat a man and set him up with an unselfish assist.

No. 8 and then 9 came through Straker and Corey Brouard respectively, two fine finishes after both pounced on indecision in the St Sampson's defence.

It was a harsh scoreline on St Sampson's, although admittedly college were extremely good going forward and they rounded off the scoring by reaching double figures deep into stoppage time with Sol Strand's effort.

**Elizabeth College:** Hugo Harty, Etienne Gaudion, Jules Upson, Morgan Clayton, Oscar Bell, James Kail, Charlie Kershaw, Max Eyton-Jones, Ben Straker. Subs used: Sol Strand, Freddie Allen, Corey Brouard.

**St Sampson's:** Luke Elmy, Alfie Bentley, Reese Jackson, Jake Elmy, Harvey Lihou, Jake Fletcher, Charlie Platt, Harry Sykes, Callum Cherry. Subs used: Brandon Wallace, Keene Domaille.



Two players look to get to the ball first.

(12071811)



Elizabeth College go on the attack.

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