

FA Cup Preliminary Round - East Grinstead 1 v 0 South Park – Saturday 25th August 2018

Match Report by Stewart Ward

A Sheikh Ceesay penalty save five minutes from time ensured Grinstead a place in the first qualifying round of the FA Cup.

Ceesay produced a marvellous save diving low to his left denying Matt Males after Karn Miller-Neave had brought down substitute Ryan McFarlane.

It was an even game throughout but it was South Park who started the brighter. Tyreke Leslie was denied by Ceesay and Ehis Izokun curled a shot just wide of the far post.

Ceesay was then lucky to stay on the pitch when he was adjudged to have handled outside of the area but he got away with just a caution.

Grinstead slowly got a foothold in the game. A great touch from Sid Sollis gave him a chance only to drag his shot wide and Sollis again raced clear of the South Park defence only to be denied by Michael Eacott when he should have squared it to Leo Mazzone who was unmarked in the box.

It only took two minutes into the second half for Grinstead to score what turned out to be the winning goal. Sollis again raced clear from a Dan Hogan ball, he was again denied by Eacott whose save landed at the feet of Ben Wilson who slotted home his first goal for the club.

Grinstead then had their best spell of the game. Hogan was crowded out at the back post and two superb crosses from Miller-Neave ended with Michael Wilson and Sollis being denied by fantastic saves by Eacott.

South Park rallied and finished the game strongly as Grinstead looked to sit on the lead. Ceesay ensured the lead remained intact with his penalty save and as South Park pushed more men forward they went close again with a shot into the side netting in the eighth minute of injury time.

Team: Ceesay, Emptage, Miller-Neave, Wilson M, Tennent, Johnson (Springett), Mazzone, Hogan (Bray), Sollis, Everett (Smith), Wilson B.

Subs not used: Killick, Deen, Jones, Meeres