

### Letchworth defeat Premier League Leaders

In the first home game of the season, Letchworth Roller Hockey Club faced current Premier league leaders Middlesbrough. The hosts opened the scoring in the third minute through James Taylor, scoring the first of his hat trick. It was another 15 minutes of end to end play before Carlos Amaral hit the back of the net to put the home team 2 – 0 ahead. The visitors were unable to get past keeper Ben Howes, and James Taylor scored again with only 8 seconds left of the first half: 3 – 0 going into the break.

Middlesbrough showed why they are top of the table, scoring 2 goals in quick succession after the start of the second half – the first from a direct free hit when Taylor was blue carded. However, this was to be the last of their successful shots, as despite repeated attacks on goal, Howes denied them to keep the home team ahead. Taylor scored again in the 6<sup>th</sup> minute followed by captain Ricky Jupp 30 seconds later. Middlesbrough were unable to get past the defence and keeper, despite another direct free hit, and the hosts played the last 18 minutes without conceding. Final score: 5 – 2.

Team: R Hayward (GK) , D Quinn Seyki, N Flint, N Allen, M Giancola, B Howes (GK), R Jupp (C), C Amaral, J Taylor.

