

# FRY CLUB COLTS U13 MATCH REPORT

Number 1

15 September 1999

*Colts kick off season with four goal romp*

Last season I was asked to do a weekly newsletter for the Fry Club U13 team, which my son played for. The idea was that it would provide information, results, fixtures, etc. and to keep the parents up-to-date with the team's progress, remind them of dates, etc.

Some of the parents had other commitments that meant they could not always get to watch games so the match report soon developed.

Andy has asked me to do the same for your team, so this is the first in what will be a weekly publication (subject to there being a fixture), distributed at training (every Wednesday evening 6.00- 7.30).

I try to be positive in my comments and fair with any criticism. However, football is a game as well as a sporting contest between two teams. It's there to provide enjoyment to players and spectators alike. If I don't enjoy what I see, then I say so!

Kids frequently take the mickey out of each other, but not maliciously. You may feel that sometimes I'm taking the mickey out of players or parents. As I get to know you all better, you can be sure I will!

*Graham*

*A warm welcome to our new signings...*

DAN PAYNE - midfield dynamo, a player of great vision and great feet (size 11). Sometimes he combines the two and passes the ball to a player in his own team. Plays a holding role in front of the back four because he's too slow to go forward. Is capable of the unexpected -- like playing well and scoring goals.

PHIL KNIGHT - left back, quiet, slow, and genuinely two-footed (can't kick with either). Steady rather than spectacular, he doesn't make many mistakes. Having now scored one league goal in four seasons considers himself an auxiliary striker, but tends to get nose bleeds when venturing out of his own half.

Holiday and work commitments mean that I have possibly not had the opportunity to view all the players that have signed on for Andy this season.

Pre-season results were a bit mixed, but then guest players were drafted in to make up the numbers on occasions, and I know that Andy used the opportunities to experiment.

Still, as long as the players know who they are I suppose that's the main thing. Once the season starts I understand you're all thinking of turning up for training on the same evening. This can be quite advantageous and even lead to being selected to play in matches!

OK, so what happened pre-season to whet our appetite for today's match against the team that finished second, one place above us last season?

What was it that inspired Andy and Fran to get hitched and swan off to warmer climes – other than confidence in the players and coaching staff?

Deerswood was a cakewalk, 10-0. Jay bagged five goals and Craig (2), Garath, Dan and Nick also found the back of the net. If all games were this easy I'd still be playing (but probably on the nil side).

Longwell Green was a shade more realistic as to what we might face this season, Jay, Craig, Dan and Nick again getting their names on the scorecard in a 4-0 win.

Bitton posed more problems, we lost that one 5-2, and this was followed by the defeat at the hands of Stoke Lane by the odd goal in five, with Jay and Dan again on target. In between, we entered a tournament at Wanswell on the August Bank Holiday Sunday. We lost 1-0 to an over-age St Valier team, whacked Wotton Rovers 4-0, lost out to the only goal against Longwell Green, and shared a goalless draw with Stroud before overcoming Thornbury Falcons 2-0 to finish fourth of six teams.

We also, at very late (i.e. 24 hours) notice entered a team in Warmley's tournament the next day. We borrowed some very good players (mostly over-aged) to put up a reasonable showing – and Dave Gooding managed the team – but it was not a real pointer to how the team as a whole might play together.

So, the league season beckoned – a nice fine day – a tour of Chipping Sodbury as we tried to find our way to the ground through a confusing diversion system that allowed me to get just as lost leaving as we did arriving!

Anyway, Clive Stallard came out of retirement to bring his tactical nous to the pre-match team talk. Dan and Steve Payne elected to go jogging prior to the match, and so missed this. However, Steve has discovered a good car immobilisation anti-theft device that's cheap and easy to fit – it's called 'Nopetrol'. Personally, I don't see it catching on.

*By popular demand,  
for one week only:  
'FOUR GOALS AND  
A WEDDING'  
(in black and red only)*

Colts lined up in 4-4-2 formation:

Sam Johnson; Mark Webb, Jason McCrossan, Tom Hamblin, Phil Knight; Nick Guest, Craig Palmer, Colin Stallard, Ian Field; Garath Smith, Jay Beale.

Substitutes: Dan Payne, Liam Kavanagh, James Williams.

Early play was relatively even as the teams probed for weaknesses and adjusted to the pace of the pitch, but Colts suffered an early setback when Mark was forced to limp off with a leg injury. Nick dropped back to right back with Dan coming on to fill the wide right berth.

With 12 minutes gone an excellent through ball from Craig to Garath saw him hare down the right before centring for Jay to let loose a thunderbolt from just inside the penalty area – GOAL!!!!!!!!!!!!

Two minutes later and an incisive pass down the left from Ian saw Garath nearly get Jay in again.

Fry's were increasing the pressure on St Nick's, Colin and Craig first to the ball in midfield and Ian and Dan raiding down the flanks, Garath was using his pace well up front, and Jay was causing problems with his strength. The back four looked composed and Sam was reasonably well protected.

With a quarter of the match gone, Phil got forward to play a ball in to the penalty area that Jay slid in to meet. Although the 'keeper was injured in the process Jay had met the ball first and the ball had been neatly buried to make the score 2-0 to Colts.

Ian's persistence on the left paid off as he won the ball and sent in a cross that Garath was just unable to connect with before a

defender scrambled it away for a corner. Craig sent over the corner, which was headed behind at the near post. His second effort was headed out to the edge of the penalty area where Phil volleyed wide (a typical full back's shot).

Twenty-six minutes gone and a Jay head-on from Sam's kick out was reached by Ian who centred for Garath to shoot, but the goalie saved. St Nick's broke straight back and a good tackle from Tom prevented their forward from bearing down on goal. Colts retaliated with a strong run down the left by Jay only for him also to be stopped by a fine tackle.

A fine ball down the line from Nick to Dan allowed him to cross only for the ball to once again just evade Garath.

#### HALF TIME : ST NICK'S 0 COLTS 2

A 30-yard free kick from Colin was only just wide and Dan's persistence on the right won the ball from the poor goal kick that resulted. He pushed the ball back to Nick, whose cross-shot was fumbled into the net by the 'keeper (3-0).

Seven minutes in to the half and Garath burst through in to the penalty area before turning the ball back to Dan who was prevented from shooting by a timely tackle.

St. Nick's were still dangerous on the break, and for a spell Colts defence was under more pressure than at any time during the match. Jason had to nip in smartly to hack the ball clear when it seemed that Sam would not get to the ball before an advancing forward did. At this stage both defences seemed to be able to get their tackles in when it really counted, and clear-cut chances were few and far between.

However, eleven minutes in to the half and St Nick's persistence paid off when Phil was beaten out wide and when the ball was centred the rest of the defence was leaden-footed as one of their forwards lifted the ball over Sam and under the bar, 3-1.

Straight from the kick off Jay fed Dan on the right and he sped up the wing, winning a corner. Craig's centre was met by Jay, whose shot was cleared off the line.

A quick throw by Dan allowed Colin to sprint in to the penalty area where he too was tackled before he could shoot. The ball fell to Craig just outside the box and his drive went narrowly wide of the post.

A poor goal kick was won by Garath who broke in to the box, passed to Jay who then blasted over. Another quick throw allowed Nick to get in a cross that just passed over the heads of our advancing forwards. Then a through ball from Garath allowed Dan a shot that was partially blocked, allowing the 'keeper to save.

Half way through the half and Craig picked up the ball in our half, advanced through two tackles and from 30 yards let fly, the ball nicely lofted over the 'keeper and under the bar (4-1).

Colin came off and Liam came on to slot in wide on the right and Dan moving inside, and then with ten minutes left James came on to replace Jay up front.

A measured forty-yard pass from Dan split St Nick's defence, allowing Garath to run on, only to squeeze his shot past the advancing 'keeper but narrowly wide of the post. He then played a ball in to the box for Craig who was tackled just as he was about to shoot. Persistent battling by James then presented Dan with a chance to show his shooting prowess, but the ball ballooned over the bar.

Although there was some evidence of tired legs towards the end of the match I think this was more from the level of effort that the players put in to the game rather than lack of fitness. Credit St Nick's for their efforts to get back in to the game, but equally it showed our determination to battle on and ensure we went away with three hard-earned and deserved points.

The under14s award a 'Man of the Match' each game – I'm glad I didn't have to choose a player from this game, I was impressed by the standard of play and commitment shown by all the players. I know Colin was pleased, as was Andy (who just couldn't stay away!), and the other parents who were watching. It was a great start to the season, well done boys.

FULL TIME: ST NICK'S 1 COLTS 4

## TEAM FACTS

### Appearances

(substitute appearances in brackets)

1 – Beale, Field, Guest, Johnson, Hamblin,  
Knight, McCrossan, Palmer, Smith, Stallard,  
Webb.

(1) – Kavanagh, Payne, Williams.

### Goals

2 – Beale.

1 – Field, Palmer.

### Fixtures

Sep	12	A	St Nicholas 'B'	4-1
	19	H	Frampton Rangers 'A'	
	26	A	Shirehampton Colts (Cup 2.15 KO)	
Oct	3	A	Warmley Rangers 'A'	
	10	H	Coalpit Heath	
	17	A	Eastwood Boys 'B'	
	24	H	Christchurch	
	31		Cup – 2 <sup>nd</sup> round	
Nov	7	A	North Bristol Colts	
	14	H	Stapleton Juniors	
	21	H	Henbury Old Boys Colts 'B'	
	28	A	Shirehampton Colts	
Dec	5	H	St Annes Rangers	
	12	A	St Annes Rangers	
	19	H	St Nicholas 'B'	

### CHRISTMAS BREAK

Jan	9	A	Frampton Rangers 'A'
	16	H	Warmley Rangers 'A'
	23	A	Coalpit Heath
	30	H	Eastwood Boys 'B'
Feb	6	A	Christchurch
	13	H	North Bristol Colts
	20	A	Stapleton Juniors
	27	A	Henbury Old Boys Colts 'B'
Mar	5	H	Shirehampton Colts

### Results

Coalpit Heath	9	Christchurch	3
Eastwood Boys	1	Henbury OB Colts	10
Frampton Rangers	2	Stapleton Juniors	4
St Annes Rangers	4	Shirehampton Colts	1
St Nicholas	1	Fry Club Colts	4
Warmley Rangers	5	North Bristol Colts	1

That's all for now folks, any complaints or writs  
should be addressed to the manager!

## WIN A TENNER FOR CHRISTMAS COMPETITION

Last season I ran a competition for the U13s where you had to guess how many points City and Rovers would get by the time we went on tour – Zolly and Chay each won a tenner. So a similar competition this season, with two Christmas tenners to be won for the nearest guess to how many points each team will have as at December 3<sup>rd</sup> (I'll pay out at the match on December 5<sup>th</sup>). Entry is free but limited to one per player to the U14 and Sunday U13 players. Write your name, the number of points you think each team will have amassed, and the number of goals they will each have scored (for use as a tie-breaker if necessary) on a post card or sheet of paper, and return to me at training or a match day, but by Sunday September 26<sup>th</sup> at the latest.

£10 to the player with the nearest guess to City's total and £10 to the player with the nearest to that of Rovers.

Good luck!

Below are the scheduled fixtures to help you calculate your answers:

### CITY – As at 11.9.99 – 8 points and 11 goals

Scunthorpe (A)  
Burnley (H)  
Oxford United (A)  
Preston (A)  
Bristol Rovers (H)  
Colchester (H)  
Burnley (A)  
Gillingham (A)  
Cambridge United (H)  
Stoke (A)  
Oldham (H)  
Notts County (A)  
Chesterfield (A) – to be re-arranged

### ROVERS – As at 11.9.99 – 13 points, 7 goals

Oldham (H)  
Notts County (A)  
Blackpool (H)  
Cardiff (H)  
Bristol City (A)  
Bournemouth (A)  
Notts County (H)  
Bury (H)  
Wycombe (A)  
Reading (H)  
Chesterfield (A)  
Luton (H)

*I reckon that City will have more points  
as well as more goals by the time  
December 5<sup>th</sup> arrives. What do you  
think? Come on you Reds!*