

FRY CLUB COLTS U13 MATCH REPORT

Number 5

13 October 1999

First half humbling by Heathens – Second half class from Colts

Editorial

It was thought that the news of the death of President John F Kennedy was so earth shattering that for years afterwards people could remember where they were when the news broke.

Personally, I can remember playing in a crib match in the 'Spotted Cow', Bedminster the night that the death of Elvis was announced.

Both these events happened before the boys were born, so here's an easier one for them. Where were you last Wednesday between 6.00 p.m. and 7.30 p.m.?

I checked the TV guide and noted that the evening's viewing included 'Celebrity Ready, Steady, Cook' and 'Emmerdale', so I can understand the reluctance of some to come and join the fun at Somerdale.

Now we don't have a "name and shame policy", so I won't name those who didn't turn up for training. Congratulations though to Dan, Ian, Mark, Nick, Phil, and Tom.

I appreciate that players can't always get to training – and certainly that schoolwork should come first. But I do think that training is the most important part of a player's footballing education. It's here that you work on your weaknesses – match days are for playing to your strengths. It's also where you learn about the tactics that you are going to use, and practice them.

You can't expect to play effectively as a team if you are on different wavelengths and unsure of what a team-mate is going to do – what runs he is likely to make, where he is going to deliver the ball, etc.

We've made a good start to the season – 100% after four games. Let's work at keeping the momentum going. Let's go training!

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Andy decided to take the reins today, hoping for an easy game to get back in to his stride. The team was:

	Sam Johnson	
Jason McCrossan		Tom Hamblin
Mark Webb		Phil Knight
Colin Stallard		Craig Palmer
Nick Guest		Liam Kavanagh
Ashley Rowe		Gareth Smith

Substitutes: Jay Beale (Ashley Rowe, 35), Dan Payne (Liam Kavanagh, 35), Ian Field (Nick Guest, 45).

There was little to choose between the two teams as they sparred with each other in the opening minutes. Colin had a shot early on from about 30 yards that, due to the strong wind that we were playing in to, only just reached the 'keeper. Heathens responded with a wind-assisted shot from over 40 yards that Sam watched whistle wide. So, we were always going to be vulnerable to distance shooting.

A promising move started by Mark brought Nick and Craig in to play on the right, and Craig's cross to the far post just cleared Ashley's head but was met by Liam who cracked the ball just wide.

A long ball from Heathens bounced awkwardly between Mark and Sam, but Sam recovered quickly to smother the ball and deny an onrushing forward. The problem with early season league tables is that they can be misleading – Coalpit Heath was certainly not playing like a foot of the table team. They were attempting to pass the ball around – but our defence looked strong and there was some intelligent running from our front players in response to midfield balls.

However, although we were doing most of the attacking, Heathens were always looking to catch us on the break and Mark needed to react quickly to get a tackle in as a forward ran through and set himself up for a shot. Sam got down quickly to prevent the ball going for a corner.

With a quarter of an hour gone, a good ball from Craig to Nick, and through to Ashley allowed him to shoot from the edge of the box – well held by the 'keeper. Heathens responded immediately and, as a forward chased a long through ball, Sam had to rush to the edge of his area, yet calmly played the ball to Mark.

A through ball from Ashley nearly got Gareth free, but he was quickly closed down. Another surging run from their centre forward saw him turn past Tom and Jason before haring towards goal - only for Jason to recover and get in a great tackle to dispossess him on the edge of the penalty area.

The initial breakthrough came in the 22nd minute – and unfortunately it wasn't in our favour. Hesitancy on the left edge of our penalty area allowed a Heathens' forward to latch on to the ball and strike it firmly past the diving Sam into the far corner of the net (0-1).

Craig fed Gareth on the left and he put in a good cross that just evaded Nick, who recovered to win a corner. Mark gave Craig the option of a short corner, but he elected to hit it to the near post where Tom's header was saved by the 'keeper.

Another good passing move involving Mark, Colin, Nick, Colin again, and Craig finally saw the ball reach Gareth whose shot dipped just over the angle of crossbar and post. Another good cross from Nick reached Liam, who was quickly closed down before he could set himself for a shot. Another ball from Ashley to Gareth saw the ball bobble just as he was about to shoot and his effort was easily fielded by the 'keeper. We kept creating chances – when would they start going in? Meanwhile, at the other end, we backed off and allowed a Heathens' striker to get in a shot from just outside the box that flashed narrowly wide.

HALF TIME: COLTS 0 COALPIT HEATH 1

Andy's half time team-talk revolved around our positional play, which at times had been a little lax. Dan came on for the second half in place of Liam, and Jay also came on as a straight swap up front in place of Ashley. Coalpit Heath turned their shirts inside out to avoid confusion between their orange and black and our red and black colours. I don't know if this was our excuse for conceding the goal – if it was, then I'm most impressed by this piece of thinking!

Two minutes in to the half, and a foul by Mark on the edge of the penalty area saw Sam pull off a good save at the near post, holding the fiercely hit shot above his head.

Jay then won a header from a Heathens' throw-in and Gareth's cross to Nick saw the 'keeper bring off an exceptional save from Nick's well struck shot. A quick throw from Dan to Phil, and a return pass, enabled Dan to get in a firmly hit cross that Nick just failed to get on the end of. A cross from Nick was then cut out and as the ball was only half cleared to the edge of the area there was a shooting chance for either Craig or Phil. Neither took charge by calling a name, and the chance was lost.

Craig then surged forward on a run, but was pushed sideways by the Heathens' defence so he elected to pass wide to Dan whose cross was sliced wide. Jason then hit a good through ball to Jay whose flick on to Dan allowed him to cross for Nick, who had another good shot well saved by the 'keeper, turning the ball round the post. At this stage the Heathens' goalie would have won a contest for 'Man of the Match' by a mile!

Mark met the clearance from the corner with a volley that, although powerfully hit, was wide of the target.

The 'keeper was struggling against the wind with his goalkicks, and Jay latched on to a poor clearance and fiercely struck the ball with his right foot only to see the 'keeper palm it round the post. From the corner he then pulled off another save from Tom's header.

Ten minutes in to the half and, with Coalpit Heath attacking, Phil intercepted and hit a long through ball that Jay chased and, from

the left side of the area, cracked a shot low and in off the far post (1-1).

Ian now came on to occupy the left wing, with Dan switching to the right, and Nick going off.

Having played against a strong wind in the first half, it now dropped. Although this made it easier for the Heathens to get more distance on their clearances, it also gave us the opportunity to better control our passes.

A flick-on by Jay to Ian, who controlled the ball well before shooting – unfortunately straight at the ‘keeper. A long throw from Jason and Gareth flicked the ball on to Dan whose drive crashed against the diving ‘keepers’ legs, and rebounded for Dan to hit narrowly wide.

A good ball inside from Ian to Craig saw his shot curl just over the bar. Another quick break from Heathens saw Tom come across to cover well.

Twenty minutes gone and a good move started by a clearance from Sam saw Dan make ground down the right wing before exchanging passes with Gareth and centring for Jay who smashed the ball firmly past the ‘keeper from eight yards out (2-1).

A throw-in from Ian saw Jay turn his marker and cross hard and low from the by-line and Gareth and the ‘keeper went for the ball together. The ball went across the face of the goal, but out of the reach of any of our players.

A free kick on the edge of the box allowed Tom to dink the ball in for Jay to head just over. A good interception from Mark, and pass to Gareth who shot weakly was followed by a flowing move down the right and a ball in from Craig to Gareth. Although hemmed in he managed to create enough space to find Jay who thundered the ball over the bar. Twenty-five minutes gone and although we were seemingly in control of the game – we were practically camped in Coalpit Heath’s half – with Colin and Craig controlling the centre of midfield, there was always the chance that they could break at speed, given the opportunity.

A nice piece of sleight of foot by Ian and ball in to Jay who was just beaten to the ball by

the ‘keeper – who I thought was remarkably brave, given their difference in size. Gareth then had another opportunity to get on the score sheet when he lifted a through ball over the ‘keeper – but just over the bar.

Just over half an hour gone and we really wanted a third goal to make the game safe. A shot from Gareth crashed against the bar and down, where Dan used his strength to break through a tackle and prod the ball past the ‘keeper (3-1).

It was all one-way traffic now as another ball from Ian saw the ‘keeper just get to the ball as it bounced away from Jay. Within a minute Jay had the ball in the back of the net, but the goal was disallowed for foot-up against the ‘keeper. Another effort from Gareth was narrowly wide, and a shot from Craig was charged down for a corner – powerfully headed by Tom from ten yards out, but off target. A cushioned header from Phil to Colin allowed him to lay the ball off to Craig, whose shot from 30 yards was just wide. Two minutes later and it was Colin’s turn to curl a shot just wide.

Colin snuffed out a rare attack by Coalpit Heath, and his pass to Dan allowed him to fire in a cross that flew across the face of the goal.

All in all, we created lots of chances. If it hadn’t been for some resolute defending and some inspired ‘keeping we could have had a double figure score. As it was, it was a tense affair watching from the touchline, but you persevered, played some good football, and ran out deserved winners. Well played.

FULL TIME: COLTS 3 COALPIT HEATH 1

**WIN A TENNER FOR CHRISTMAS
COMPETITION**

You may recall that in the first newsletter there was a competition with £20 prize money. Clearly we have a wealthy bunch of players – or an apathetic one – in the U13s and U14s! Number of entries = 1.

Congratulations to Phil on being the winner.

So, the next competition appears overleaf – I’m sure Andy won’t hold it against you if you don’t enter, honest!

TEAM FACTS

Appearances

(substitute appearances in brackets)

- 5 – Johnson, Hamblin, Knight, Palmer,
Smith, Stallard, Webb;
4 – Beale (1), McCrossan;
3 – Payne (2), Field (1), Rowe (1);
2 – Guest (1), Kavanagh (2);
(2) – Williams;

Goals

- 7 – Beale;
4 – Payne;
3 – Field, Smith;
2 – Palmer, Rowe;
1 – Hamblin, McCrossan.

Fixtures

Sep	12	A	St Nicholas 'B'	4-1
	19	H	Frampton Rangers 'A'	3-0
	26	A	Shirehampton Colts	11-1
Oct	3	A	Warmley Rangers 'A'	2-0
	10	H	Coalpit Heath	3-1
	17	A	Eastwood Boys 'B'	
	24	H	Christchurch	
	31		Cup – 2 nd round	
Nov	7	A	North Bristol Colts	
	14	H	Stapleton Juniors	
	21	H	Henbury O B 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 O B Colts 'B'
Mar	5	H	Shirehampton Colts

10 October - League Results

Fry Club	3	Coalpit Heath	1
Henbury	3	St Nicholas	4
North Bristol	3	Christchurch	3
St Annes	6	Frampton	3
Shirehampton	5	Warmley	6
Stapleton	11	Eastwood	1

League table as at 10 October

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
St Annes	5	5	0	0	23	11	15
Stapleton	4	4	0	0	26	5	12
Fry Club	4	4	0	0	12	2	12
Henbury	4	2	0	2	16	10	6
Warmley	5	2	0	3	15	15	6
North Bristol	4	1	1	2	13	14	4
Eastwood Boys	4	1	1	2	10	25	4
Frampton	4	1	0	3	19	14	3
St Nicholas	4	1	0	3	10	16	3
Coalpit Heath	4	1	0	3	10	20	3
Shirehampton	4	1	0	3	10	25	3
Christchurch	4	0	2	2	9	16	2

ANDY'S CHALLENGE

The teams in the English FA Carling Premiership and the Nationwide League have between them 20 'end' names. Can you name them?

Clubs with only one name – such as Arsenal or Everton don't count. Here's a couple to get you started:

City, Rovers (get the hang of it?)

Answers, on a postcard or £10 note to Andy by Sunday 31st October at the latest.

There will be an absolutely bumper prize (bottle of coke and a packet of crisps probably) for the winner, picked at random from a hat at the match on Sunday 7th November – away to North Bristol Colts.

That's all folks, other than to say that in future the newsletter will be distributed at training each Wednesday evening, although I'm sure Andy will have some spare copies on Sunday.