

# FRY CLUB COLTS U13

## MATCH REPORT

Number 6

20 October 1999

*Another game of two halves*

### Editorial...HOW GOOD ARE WE?

When we pass the ball around and get the ball out to the wings we can look really dangerous going forward. Often, particularly when defences push up to the half way line, in an effort to play the offside trap, the centre of midfield becomes congested. Unless gaps suddenly open up, running with the ball in this area often leads to the player being dispossessed and places team-mates under pressure.

Good teams – at all levels – have the ability to vary their style of play. Despite their willingness to 'get stuck in', Ashley, Gareth, Ian, Liam and Nick do not have Jay's physique – and the ability to hold the ball up or shrug off challenges as he can do when playing up front. However, they can react quickly and intelligently to early balls played to feet or over the top for them to run on to.

Craig, Dan and Tom all have the ability to deliver the ball accurately at set pieces – corners and free kicks. In the centre of midfield we are competitive – Craig, Colin and Dan are strong in the tackle to win ball, and can be constructive in their distribution. When playing on the wing, Ashley, Ian, Liam and Nick can all put in good crosses for the front players and also appreciate the need to tackle back when the need arises.

At the back, we have Jason's pace and Tom's ability to read the game. Mark and Phil get up to support the midfield if the occasion presents itself. All four are good headers of a ball and can tackle. They also have the ability to play the ball out of defence constructively. Although 'safety

first' has to be the motto at the back, just 'humping' the ball aimlessly upfield does not always relieve the pressure. Sam is quick to come out when necessary and is confident in his handling. I've yet to see him severely tested but he looks sound.

So, with all this ability, are we a good team? Well, we're unbeaten in six league and cup games – a 100% winning record in fact – lying second in the table. Other teams may have scored more goals, but none have conceded fewer, and good teams are built on good defence – it makes them hard to beat.

It's early days, however, with another 17 games to go. A look at the table shows that most of our games have been against those teams languishing in the bottom half of the table (the teams in italics) – mind you, we've helped to put them there! November and December are the telling months with five games against teams in the top half of the table.

So far, the in-form teams are Stapleton, St Annes and ourselves, but there is plenty of time for the likes of Warmley and North Bristol Colts to make up ground. We must ensure that we continue not to drop points against the lower teams – and look to take points off the top teams.

If we're sitting at the top of the league at Christmas then we'll be looking good. If we're top of the league at the end of the season then we'll have proved we're good. So, it's all to play for.....

Onwards and upwards!

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Jay was missing, having picked up an injury in the under-14s' Cup match the previous afternoon; otherwise, Andy had a full squad to choose from. The starting line-up against Eastwood was therefore:

	Sam Johnson	
Tom Hamblin		Dan Payne
Mark Webb		Phil Knight
Craig Palmer		Ian Field
Ashley Rowe		Liam Kavanagh
Nick Guest		Gareth Smith

**Substitutes:**

Colin Stallard (Gareth Smith, 35), Jason McCrossan (Liam Kavanagh, 35).

It only took us two minutes to get the ball in the back of the net. Unfortunately, Liam's effort was ruled out as being offside.

Eastwood, playing with quite a strong wind behind them, also had a good opportunity in the first five minutes, as a quick break down our left flank saw their forward burst in to the area and fire just wide.

A good break by us saw a long ball from Dan to Liam, but the ball was forced out for a corner, which was easily cleared.

Eastwood were clearly intent on playing the offside trap and their back four were continually pushing up to the half way line, making for a congested midfield.

A miss-kick by Phil nearly allowed an Eastfield forward a run on goal, but Dan recovered the situation and launched an attack as he fed Liam who passed to Ian who in turn played the ball forward to Gareth, whose advance was stopped by a timely tackle.

A good break by Eastwood saw Mark do well to win the ball when faced with two opponents, and set Gareth off on a run that saw him crowded out by the Eastwood defence.

With the wind against us we were able to play some long balls over the top that wouldn't run through to the 'keeper – a tactic that Eastwood also tried, and which Sam, being alert to the possible danger, fielded for the most part in relative comfort. Anything that didn't reach him was dealt comfortably with by Tom and Dan who were in commanding form in the centre of defence.

Gareth managed to reach one such ball from Phil only for a defender to get a boot to his shot and take the pace off it. Another through ball – this time from Dan – saw the 'keeper just reach Gareth's shot with his fingertips, the ball being cleared for a corner that was successfully defended.

A long throw from Mark gave Gareth the opportunity to set Ian free, but he was tackled on the edge of the area. Ian then returned the compliment by putting Ashley through, but his shot lacked power.

Another long through ball from Eastwood was fielded by Sam, and thrown out to Phil - his ball was taken on by Liam, played inside to Ian, and on to Nick who made a good diagonal run to receive the ball, only for it to be forced out for a throw-in.

Eastwood won the ball in midfield and again broke quickly. However, they rarely had players up in numbers. Mark dispossessed their attacker and played the ball on to Ashley who received the ball back and shot wide after Gareth and Ian had joined in the move.

Nick and Ian then broke free and exchanged passes before Nick's shot from a narrow angle found the side netting. Eastwood responded with a speculative shot from the touchline that sailed wide of the goal.

Back on the offensive, and Craig beat the offside trap with a well-timed run following a through ball from Dan. Unfortunately he took the ball a little wide and his shot was easily collected by the 'keeper.

Sam then came out bravely to collect at the feet of both an attacker and Phil, as they challenged for a through ball.

**HALF TIME: EASTWOOD 0 COLTS 0**

After watching the under 14s draw with Whitchurch, 0-0 after extra time in the Cup the day before, and listening to City fail to score against the Gas – despite being by far the better side – I was definitely due to see a few goals. I confidently predicted to Leo that we would put six past Eastwood in the second half. Andy brought on the two subs to replace Liam and Gareth and shuffled the team around so it lined up:

Sam Johnson	
Jason McCrossan	Tom Hamblin
Mark Webb	Phil Knight
Colin Stallard	Dan Payne
Ashley Rowe	Ian Field
Nick Guest	Craig Palmer

Two minutes in to the half and a warning for Craig that, if he kicked out at a player again after losing the ball in a tackle, he'd be going for an early bath.

A minute later and a quick throw from Dan saw Craig break in to the box and cross low for Nick to side-foot the ball past the 'keeper (1-0).

Five minutes gone and a through ball from Colin for Nick to chase saw a defender reach the ball first only for him to hit his back-pass wide of the 'keeper for a corner. Dan took it from the right and as Craig ran short on a dummy run, Tom stormed in to meet the ball at the near post and plant his header firmly just under the bar (2-0).

Phil broke forward to collect Dan's throw, and played the ball inside for Colin to try a shot that was charged down. Ian then broke down the left and his cross was met by Ashley whose shot was saved at the foot of the post by the 'keeper. Colin then waltzed through a couple of challenges on the edge of the box before playing the ball through to Nick who was closed down in the act of shooting, the ball going out for a corner on the left. Dan swung the ball in and Colin shot past the 'keeper from ten yards (3-0).

Ten minutes in to the half and we had what was probably the best move of the match. Mark won the ball on the edge of our penalty area and Colts strung together a passing movement involving Colin, Nick, Ashley and, finally, Craig who slotted the ball past the

'keeper to make it 4-0. Eastwood did try to come back at us, but were somewhat demoralised after conceding four goals in seven minutes.

With a quarter of an hour gone, Craig was brought down as he bore down on goal and Tom stepped up to hit the 40-yard free kick a yard wide. Dan then had an attempt from closer in that was hit weakly. Eastwood responded with a quick break that ended with a shot wide of the post. Following Phil's tackle and pass to Colin, Craig ran through but the 'keeper beat him to the ball. We then went through a ten-minute spell where we appeared to take our foot off the gas pedal. Whether or not this was to give the under-worked Tom and Jason a chance to get in to the game or not, I don't know. Any way, Dan picked the ball up in midfield and with two forwards standing offside, ran through on his own to plant the ball firmly low in to the corner of the net (5-0).

Ian charged the ball down from a poor goalkick and injured his shoulder in winning a corner that was subsequently cleared. He was then flattened in a challenge that was ruled as obstruction! Dan touched the ball to Craig who stopped it for Dan to shoot – wide.

With just over ten minutes remaining I was confident of my 6-0 prediction when the Eastwood defence stopped – presumably for an offside that wasn't – and Nick and Ian ran through together. After not appearing too impressive with some of his handling, the 'keeper then pulled off an excellent save at Nick's feet as he attempted to slip the ball past him.

With five minutes to go, unusual indecision in our defence nearly allowed Eastwood in, but the ball was cleared for a corner. Phil met it at the near post but it rebounded and was hit in to the side netting by an Eastwood forward. A high ball in to the box by Dan saw Ian fire a shot in, but straight to the 'keeper. With time running out Jason and Sam nearly got in a mix-up as a ball was played through to an Eastwood forward. Fortunately, Sam got there first and was also quick enough to get back to hold on to the follow-up shot.

**FULL TIME: EASTWOOD 0 COLTS 5**

## TEAM FACTS

### Appearances

(substitute appearances in brackets)

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

### Goals

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

### Fixtures

Sep	12	A	St Nicholas 'B'	4-1
	19	H	Frampton Rangers 'A'	3-0
	26	A	Shirehampton Colts (Cup – 1 <sup>st</sup> round)	11-1
Oct	3	A	Warmley Rangers 'A'	2-0
	10	H	Coalpit Heath	3-1
	17	A	Eastwood Boys 'B'	5-0
	24	H	Christchurch	
	31	H	Frampton Rangers 'A' (Cup – 2 <sup>nd</sup> round – 2.15 K.O.)	
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	

**STOP PRESS: CUP 2<sup>nd</sup> ROUND – HOME TO FRAMPTON RANGERS 'A'**

## 17 October - League Results

Christchurch	1	Stapleton	7
Coalpit Heath	2	Shirehampton	4
Frampton	4	St Nicholas	4
Eastwood	0	Fry Club	5
North Bristol	3	Henbury	5

### League table as at 17 October

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Stapleton	5	5	0	0	33	6	15
<b>Fry Club</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>15</b>
St Annes	5	5	0	0	23	11	15
Henbury	5	3	0	2	21	10	9
Warmley	5	2	0	3	15	15	6
Shirehampton	5	2	0	3	14	27	6
Frampton	5	1	1	3	23	18	4
St Nicholas	5	1	1	3	14	20	4
North Bristol	5	1	1	3	13	19	4
Eastwood Boys	5	1	1	3	10	30	4
Coalpit Heath	5	1	0	4	12	24	3
Christchurch	5	0	2	3	10	23	2

On the basis that some of you may not receive this newsletter until the day of the Christchurch match, I thought I'd remind you that the closing date for Andy's Challenge, as detailed in last week's *Match Report*, is at the Cup match on 31<sup>st</sup> October – details are repeated below, for those who have forgotten.

### 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 31<sup>st</sup> 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 7<sup>th</sup> November – away to North Bristol Colts.

PS Nine at training last week – going up!