

FRY CLUB COLTS U13 MATCH REPORT

Number 7

27 October 1999

Cold, wet, windy- the season proper has arrived!

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The main problem that I have when it is wet and windy is that I can't juggle an umbrella, tape recorder, cigar and coffee at the same time. I dispensed with the umbrella in favour of a fetching green one-piece set of waterproof overalls, but neither the cigars nor the tape recorder work too well in the wet. This week's match report is therefore shorter than normal.

Dan was away on holiday, Sam cried off with a headache (the fresh air would have soon cleared that), and Liam had gone out, so Andy had no need to decide on who to leave out this week.

	Nick Guest	
Tom Hamblin	Jason McCrossan	
Mark Webb		Phil Knight
	Colin Stallard	Craig Palmer
Ashley Rowe		Ian Field
	Gareth Smith	Jay Beale

In fact, with Tom electing to go to Page Park, we kicked off with only ten players – Colin starting off in the back four. There was a strong wind behind us as we kicked off and it took some time to come to terms with this as most of our through balls picked up pace off the greasy surface, and with the tail wind, zipped through to the 'keeper.

Still, in the first ten minutes Jay managed a shot across goal from a narrow angle, Craig dragged a shot just wide as he burst through on to a long throw from Mark.

It was hard to believe that Christchurch were the bottom team in the division as they frequently got players behind the ball and made things difficult for us. Admittedly their extra player helped, and they broke quickly down the right only for Phil to block the shot.

An excellent through ball from Colin saw Gareth beat the offside trap. His ball across the area was left by Jay for Ian to strike it over the bar. Craig then had a shot from the edge of the area that was only just wide and a snap shot from Ashley was just over the top.

A quarter of the way through the game and Ashley was body-checked just outside the penalty area as he ran through after collecting Jay's flick-on.

With Clive imploring **Colin** to keep the free kick low, he did just that and the ball took a slight deflection off a defender's foot on its way in to the corner of the net (1-0). Tom had now finished feeding the ducks and decided to put in an appearance

Jay then did well to chase a through ball and charge down the 'keeper's attempted clearance and win a corner. Craig swung it in from the left and although the delivery was good, nobody managed to get a head on it and it went out for a goal kick.

Mark's through ball then saw Jay turn and leather the ball from 30 yards – just wide of the top corner of the net.

With 25 minutes gone, Gareth chased down a through ball and pressurised the 'keeper in to miss-hitting his clearance and when the error was compounded by a defender the ball fell to **Jay** who crashed it in to the back of the net (2-0).

Two minutes later and Ian's ball inside was met by the advancing Gareth who was unlucky to see his shot rebound off the 'keeper's legs for a corner. Phil met Craig's corner with a downward header towards goal that was cleared by a defender before we could get a challenge in.

A run down our right flank saw Mark beaten for once but the Christchurch forward then skewed his shot wide of Nick's left-hand post.

With half an hour gone, Ashley broke down the right, exchanged passes with Gareth, and broke in to the box only to lose his footing as he shot, hitting the ball wide. Two minutes later, however, and Ashley was rewarded when he again broke down the right and drilled the ball across low and hard from the by-line. On a wet surface this is the hardest ball to defend against and sure enough a defender rushing back to cut out the cross struck it firmly past his own 'keeper (3-0).

HALF TIME: COLTS 3 CHRISTCHURCH 0

Our last two games had seen us firing blanks in the first half, but put eight goals in during the second halves. So, despite having the wind against us the crowd was convinced that more goals were in the offing.

Well, Jay had three attempts to break the back of the net when in one-on-one situations with the 'keeper, only to see them all go wide. Sometimes a little finesse and an accurate side-footer can do the job just as well.

A strong shot from Ashley, breaking in from the right was pushed round the post by the 'keeper, but the corner was comfortably cleared.

The Christchurch 'keeper was launching some mighty long kicks but our players were winning the headers – even if some of them weren't going where they were intended! Once again, however, we looked strong at the back. Nick was pretty much a spectator such was the commanding presence of Tom and Jason in the middle, whilst both Mark and Phil were pretty much in control on the flanks. Jason showed coolness when confronted with two opponents as he chased back to a through ball, and then initiated a passing movement involving Tom, Colin and Ian before Jay cracked another shot wide.

With half an hour gone, Colin's shot was knocked up by the 'keeper as it looked like just dipping under the bar, and he caught it at the second attempt as Ian challenged. The ball was immediately punted downfield where Nick had to be alert and come out of his area quickly to kick clear.

We continued to control the game for the most part without being able to add to our tally of goals. I know that the conditions might not have helped us, but they are what you are going to be facing for the next four months or so – start getting used to them! Sometimes we need to get the ball out wide a little quicker and get to the by-line before whipping in crosses – diagonal balls rather than concentrate so much on banging balls through the middle. Still, another win and a battling display against a team that certainly didn't play like a bottom of the table team.

FULL TIME: COLTS 3 CHRISTCHURCH 0

24th October - League Results

Fry Club	3	Christchurch	0
Henbury	6	Frampton	2
St Annes		Coalpit Heath	P
St Nicholas		Warmley	P
Shirehampton		Eastwood	P
Stapleton	6	North Bristol	1

TEAM FACTS

Appearances

(substitute appearances in brackets)

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

Goals

8 – Beale;
 5 – Payne;
 3 – Field, Palmer, Smith;
 2 – Hamblin, Rowe, Stallard;
 1 – Guest, McCrossan, o.g.

Fixtures

Sep	12	A	St Nicholas 'B'	4-1
	19	H	Frampton Rangers 'A'	3-0
	26	A	Shirehampton Colts (Cup – 1 st 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	3-0
	31	H	Frampton Rangers 'A' (Cup – 2 nd 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

League table as at 24th October

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Stapleton	6	6	0	0	39	7	18
Fry Club	6	6	0	0	20	2	18
St Annes	5	5	0	0	23	11	15
Henbury	6	4	0	2	27	12	12
Warmley	5	2	0	3	15	15	6
Shirehampton	5	2	0	3	14	27	6
Frampton	6	1	1	4	25	24	4
St Nicholas	5	1	1	3	14	20	4
North Bristol	6	1	1	4	14	25	4
Eastwood Boys	5	1	1	3	10	30	4
Coalpit Heath	5	1	0	4	12	24	3
Christchurch	6	0	2	4	10	26	2

PS – Tom, we're home in the Cup on Saturday!

PPS – Don't forget – Andy's Challenge – entries due in by Sunday 31st October.