

FRY CLUB COLTS U14

MATCH REPORT

Number 11

29 November 1999

Great performance in the Cup goes unrewarded

PLONKER JOE!

What more can you say? How can anyone dive in all over the place on a football pitch, tackle ferociously and then break his wrist in the gym?

Plan 'A' out the window, defence to reorganise, tactics and formations to rethink. Dave and I spent all day Friday digging out and paving a driveway for the new "Graham-mobile". I came up with some brilliant suggestions whilst leaning on the shovel and watching him work. These included playing Greg in goal and Nick up front!

Fortunately, Dave feigned deafness and got on with the digging. I was not at training on Friday evening – I thought I'd give Mike and Gerald a chance to have some sensible input. Thus I was unaware of the team until we got out on to the pitch. It was at this stage of the proceedings that I realised I'd forgotten the tape-recorder and cigars. Still, at least I'd remembered the flask!

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Dave had as originally mooted, gone for the 'Alton Towers team' – those who failed the height test were out – so Chay, Jack and Phil were on the bench. On the basis that Winford were a big team, this was understandable; so was playing five across the middle. In defence Sam and Tom were the two markers, and our secret weapon was at the back – Marcus as the sweeper. So, we kicked off with the following line-up:

Nick Ford

Marcus Smith

Tom Hamblin

Sam Jones

Jack Gooding

Dan Payne

Lee James

Jason Pitman

Zolly Vanyai

Jamie Bryant

Jay Beale

Substitutes: Chay Welsh (53 – Lee James), Jack Belsher (64, Zolly Vanyai), Phil Knight (68, Tom Hamblin).

I think that Winford were taken by surprise with the speed and determination with which we attacked them straight from the kick-off.

Only three minutes in to the game and Lee won a throw on the right. Jamie got to the by-line and pulled the ball back. **Jason** capitalised on the error and hammered the ball home (1-0).

Winford looked shocked, but didn't let it upset their rhythm. A ball down our left flank and cross towards the far post saw two Winford attackers unmarked. The first player missed his kick; the second hit the ball narrowly wide of the far post. A minute later and we were guilty of ball watching again, allowing a player to move through our defence as we were coming out, collect a pass over the top of our defence and lob Nick, the ball going in off the post (1-1).

A sparkling move involving Jason, Jamie, Lee, Jack, Lee and Jamie again, ended with Dan just unable to get in a shot from Lee's cross.

Winford replied with a run down our left flank and cross to their forward who had pulled away from Tom and had time and space to give Nick no chance (1-2).

With a quarter of an hour gone though, the match was all square when a ball in from Jay on the right saw **Zolly** miss his effort to volley but recover in time to hammer the ball home at the second attempt (2-2).

Kerry was talking in terms of extra time at this stage. However, with both defences not looking too sound, and the pace fast and furious we were sure there were more goals to come. Lo and behold, some good work from Lee and Jamie out on the right – the ball back to Jack and a high centre – saw **Zolly** glide in at the far post to sweep the ball home (3-2).

Jay then had a tussle out on the left flank with one defender, which soon ended with him surrounded by three players and kicked in the head. The referee allowed play to continue, and Rich voiced his opinion as to this! The goalie meanwhile got down quickly to foil Jamie.

Meanwhile, at the other end Marcus and Tom were playing head tennis, Nick ending the game by pushing the ball round the post from a Winford header.

With twenty-seven minutes gone we increased our lead when Lee chased hard to keep the ball from going out for a Winford throw and managed to get the ball to Jamie. Jamie crossed and **Zolly** was again in space at the far post and rifled the ball high in to the net (4-2).

Two minutes later, however, and Winford nearly cut the deficit, a shot from just outside the area dropping over Nick, but just wide. With half time less than five minutes away, Nick came out towards the edge of the area to field a through ball; but allowed the Winford attacker to take the ball almost from out of his hands, and knock it in to the net (4-3).

Winford then forced a corner that Marcus cleared off the line, but then conceded a free kick as he tried to run the ball clear. The kick was half cleared and a shot from Winford was narrowly over the bar.

HALF TIME: WINFORD 3 COLTS 4

Winford kicked off, but we were soon on the attack. Jamie won a corner and a good centre from Jack saw Tom hurl himself at the ball, but unable to connect. Jamie fell over as he attempted to get in a shot as the ball came to ground. A good through ball from Jason then set Jamie free, but the 'keeper just got to the ball first.

We were then awarded a free kick 45 yards out. Jack hit the ball high in to the box and the 'keeper let the ball slip through his hands. Fortunately for Winford a defender managed to get back in time to hack the ball off the line. The 'keeper needed attention after landing awkwardly. He had looked dodgy in the air earlier in the game and may have been carrying an injury.

Another through ball from Jamie to run on to saw him beat the 'keeper to the ball, but he had to go wide to do so and was unable to get a shot in. His pass back across goal was cleared.

Winford attacked again and Nick pulled off a good save, turning the ball round the post. We broke quickly from the corner, Tom and Lee combining to send Jamie forward, winning a corner.

Jay swung the ball in and the 'keeper struggled to hold Dan's header. Play was quickly back to our end and another good header from Tom cleared the danger. Another free kick, for a foul on Jamie saw Jack hit the ball high and wide from 35 yards.

Again, Winford came back and again Nick pulled off a good save, diving low to his right to parry and then throwing himself forward to claim the ball at the feet of a Winford forward. Half way through the half and Jack lost the ball on the edge of the box. With nobody behind him, the Winford player had time to lift his shot over Nick's leap and just under the crossbar (4-4).

Dave brought on Chay for Lee – who had had a really good game, but was beginning to tire. Another shot from Winford went just over the bar.

Winford then broke at pace down our left flank. Zolly chased back and desperately tried to get in a tackle on the edge of the penalty area. Unfortunately, he took the player's foot and although Zolly was outside the area the Winford player may have been just inside. Anyway, the referee awarded a penalty and although Nick went the right way (the left, actually!) the ball just passed his outstretched arm and in to the back of the net (4-5).

Two minutes later and Jack's long ball was chased by Jay who was brought down on the edge of the box. Unfortunately, no penalty – just a free kick that came to nothing. Winford continued to press, seeking another goal to make the game safe. We continued to press and look for an equaliser. With five minutes left, plus injury time, Dave brought on Jack Belsher – more fresh legs – to replace Zolly. Two minutes later Phil went on in place of Tom and we went to two at the back, Marcus being despatched up front.

We now pushed forward with even more urgency. Jamie was too slow to a ball that the 'keeper managed to claim first, and Chay spun to shoot as the ball dropped from a corner but was unable to make contact. Despite our efforts though we couldn't get that elusive goal.

FULL TIME : WINFORD 5 COLTS 4

MAN OF THE MATCH

Some really solid performances today, but Steve and Scott gave the award to Zolly. A lot of hard work, chasing and harrying, and three well taken goals, so well done

ZOLTAN VANYAI

Post match thoughts.....

There were times when we played Winford, only three weeks ago, when we were being overrun; so full marks to Dave for the switch in tactics, formation, and personnel.

However, once the whistle blows for the start it's mostly up to the players. There was not a lot of "pretty" football today, and I don't think any of us expected there to be. Winford are a big, strong team with some players with plenty of pace. They wouldn't give us time to dwell on the ball and we had to be the same. Until the last quarter of the match when we began to tire, we did just that.

Personally, I thought that this was the best team performance since last season's cup final. We can look back and say that there were individual slips that cost us goals. However, everyone played well overall:

Nick pulled off several fine saves to help keep the game on a knife-edge, and had no chance with four out of the five goals.

Marcus adapted well to a strange position and we knew that his pace and tenacity would help counter the pace of Winford's attack, and so it proved.

Tom and **Sam** got caught ball watching in the first few minutes, and it cost us. It is difficult to switch from a back four to three at the back without practice. But they recovered to make some telling tackles and interceptions.

Lee showed, again, that he is capable of getting forward and getting crosses in, as well as defending. Again, he chased everything and harried everyone. For me he ran Zolly close for 'Man of the Match'.

Zolly, on the other flank, had one of his days when he was willing to work hard to get the ball, and determined not to lose it when he did. He took his goals well. I know he felt really bad about conceding the penalty – he shouldn't. These things happen. Nobody will criticise players for trying. There have been occasions

when midfield players deserve, and get, a bollocking for not coming back and defending. The idea was right; the timing was a fraction out. Unlucky. End of story.

Dan and **Jack** got through a lot of work in midfield. Not every pass went to its target. You can't expect them to. Nor can you expect them to win every tackle. They won most of them; and most of our attacking moves stemmed from them. They gave us a solid base in midfield.

Jason flitted, harried, didn't give Winford time on the ball. Won the ball, got fouled. Got up. Got on with the game. Scored a goal. Another who looked knackered towards the end of the game, but then he'd run his heart out.

Jamie – fast developing in to an excellent right winger! Still struggling to score but doing everything else right. Worked hard and gave the defenders something to think about. **Jay** never had a shot at goal. I've never had to say that before! But he still set up one goal and worked hard up front. Whilst they were keeping defenders occupied, they were making space for Zolly.

Congratulations, all of you on the way you played. It was an enthralling game to watch. Both teams competed hard; both had opportunities to score that were spurned. Neither side really deserved to lose, but we did. At least we went down fighting, and trying to the final whistle.

UNDER 14s FACT FILE

TEAM FACTS

Appearances

(substitute appearances in brackets)

- 11 – Garland, Hamblin (1), Payne (1);
- 10 – Ford, James (1), Pitman, Smith (1);
- 9 – Beale (2), Bryant (2), Gooding (1), Knight (1), Vanyai (2);
- 3 – Ashman (2), Belsher (7), Jones (2), Welsh (4);
- 1 – Tucker, Williams (1).

Goals

- 8 – Beale;
- 7 – Vanyai;
- 6 – Pitman (1 pen);
- 4 – Welsh;
- 3 – Belsher, Payne (1 pen);
- 2 – Bryant, Gooding;
- 1 – Hamblin, o.g.

Man of the Match

2 – Beale, Hamblin;
 1 – Bryant, Garland, Gooding, Pitman, Vanyai,
 Welsh, 'The Team'.
 (No award made in the Hutton cup game)

Fixtures

Sep	11	A	Avon Park Rangers	6-1
	18	H	Hengrove Boys	0-3
	25	H	Patchway Boys	0-6
Oct	2	A	Whitchurch	4-0
	9	A	Brislington	4-3
	16	A	Whitchurch – Cup	0-0 aet
	30	H	Whitchurch – replay	3-0
Nov	6	A	Winford	2-5
	13	H	Fishponds	6-0
	14	H	Hutton Juniors – Somerset Cup	2-1
	20	H	Shirehampton	6-1
	27	A	Winford - Cup	4-5
Dec	4	H	Free weekend	
	11	H	Horfield United	

WINTER BREAK

Jan	8	H	Avon Park Rangers	
	9		Somerset Cup – 2 nd round	
	15	A	Hengrove Boys	
	22	A	Patchway Colts	
	29	H	Whitchurch	
Feb	5	H	Brislington	
	12		Free weekend	
	19		Free weekend	
	26	A	Horfield United	
Mar	4	H	Winford	
	11		Cup – Semi finals	
	18	A	Fishponds	
	25	A	Shirehampton	

FIXTURE CHANGES

Please note: the match scheduled for this Saturday (4th December) has been **postponed** as Avon Park have to play their Cup game against Patchway, which was postponed this weekend.

The home game against Horfield has been **rearranged** for the 11th December.

The second round of the Somerset Cup is on Sunday 9th January. We don't know the opponents or venue yet.

TRAINING

Friday 10th December : 6.45 – 8.00 PM

Friday 17th December : 6.45 – 8.00 p.m.

Thursday 30th December : 1.30 – 3.30 p.m.
 (shake off that post-Christmas lethargy)

Friday 7th January : 6.45 – 8.00pm
 (providing the world hasn't ended on 31st Dec)

27th November – Cup Results

Brislington	3	Horfield	5
Hengrove	8	Fishponds	1
Patchway	P	Avon Park Rangers	P
Winford	5	Fry Club Colts	4

So, no match on Saturday, no newsletter next week. I won't get the Horfield match report done until the new year, so "Merry Xmas" to you all, see you at the disco!

I thought you might appreciate some Xmas jokes, saved from last year's crackers:

Q How do you make a band stand?

A *Hide all the chairs.*

Q When do spare parts from Japanese cars start falling out of the sky?

A *When it's raining Datsun cogs.*

Q Why do birds fly south in the winter?

A *Because they can't afford to take the train.*

Q How did seven fat people fit under an umbrella and not get wet?

A *It wasn't raining.*

Q What do you call a penguin in the Sahara desert?

A *Lost.*

Q What do hedgehogs have for lunch?

A *Prickled onions.*

Q What did the Martian say to the petrol pump?

A *Take your finger out of your ear when I'm talking to you.*

Q What did the mayonnaise say to the fridge?

A *Please close the door, I'm dressing.*

Come back Chris Wilkes, all is forgiven!