

FRY CLUB COLTS U13 MATCH REPORT

Number 12

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Wayward shooting sees goals hard to come by

DAN THE MAN TO FOIL ST ANNES

Well, last week we had a lack of substitutes – this week we were struggling to field a team. Fortunately, Andy was able to draft in Adam Britton and Luke Temblett to give us twelve players on the day. This in a crunch match against third-placed St Annes, to see if we could maintain our 100% league record for the first half of the season. Colts lined up:

	Sam Johnson	
	Tom Hamblin	Dan Payne
Adam Britton		Phil Knight
	Colin Stallard	Craig Palmer
Nick Guest		Ashley Rowe
	Gareth Smith	Jay Beale

We made the early running as Nick won the ball on the right and played it through for Gareth whose shot was cleared off the line. Jay couldn't get to the ball and Craig's first time shot from outside the area lacked the power to trouble the 'keeper. However, it served notice of our intent and we were to go on and dominate the first half. Tom and Dan were hardly troubled and at times Phil was making excursions down the left almost as an extra midfield player. Adam was up against a tricky winger but on the occasions when he wasn't able to get a tackle in he managed to prevent him from getting down the line and held him up allowing Tom to come across and cover.

Unlike against North Bristol Colts, when it seemed almost that every time we shot the ball ended up in the back of the net, we seemed to have lost our shooting boots – chances galore were spurned as we hit shots high, wide, and anything but handsome. When we managed to get them on target they lacked power or the 'keeper managed to defy us!

Clive had commented before the game that one of the best things about our team was that there were lots of players in the game capable of scoring, and you always fancy us to score goals. What a good time to come out with a comment like that, and for me to agree with him! It's true though – today was just one of those days. Still, remember what I wrote after the Shirehampton cup match that you might have cause to look at clean sheets with gratitude some day. Today was such a case.

In the second minute Phil cleared to Ashley who helped the ball on to Jay who made ground down the left before shooting from the edge of the area – narrowly wide of the far post. A minute later and Colin won the ball in midfield, played it inside for Craig who advanced to the edge of the area before letting fly with a shot that was saved.

Adam then intercepted a ball, played it inside to Gareth – out to Nick on the wing, and a cross that was well hit by Ashley coming in at the far post, just wide.

A long clearance from Sam – St Annes did manage to get in some quick counter attacks – was helped on by Jay to Colin who forced his way past two players before releasing Nick on the right; his shot was just over the bar.

A poor clearance from the St Annes 'keeper saw Ashley take a pot shot straight back at him from 45 yards; smart thinking and a good effort considering the range, but the 'keeper was able to recover.

A corner on the right was well headed by Colin on the edge of the six-yard box, the 'keeper did well to turn the ball over the bar. Although a defender got his head to the second corner, Gareth pounced only for the 'keeper to turn his shot round the post.

A quick raid by St Annes down our right flank saw Sam get down smartly at the near post to collect the ball. Ashley then broke down the left and passed to Jay, who turned his marker, and ran through strongly only to shoot just wide. St Annes showed that they could be dangerous on the break as a long cross from our left flank picked out one of their forwards who was foiled in his attempt to shoot by an excellent tackle from Tom. A long clearance from Tom then found Colin who played the ball out to Nick. Nick and Gareth then interchanged passes, trying to work an opening for one or the other, but were closed down and a promising move fizzled out.

A long throw from Jay, in to the penalty area was allowed to bounce and Ashley seized the opportunity to shoot no more than six inches wide. Nick was a constant threat down the right flank with some telling runs and just failed to get on the end of a through ball from Craig that could have spelled danger.

Another shot lacking in power, this time from Colin was followed by an inswinging corner from the left by Craig that was headed off the line, but Jay was penalised for a foot up before we could capitalise on the loose ball. Jay then had a shot that was half blocked and Gareth stretched for the ball but could only get the end of his toe to it to prod the ball a foot wide.

Our next attack saw a lovely little piece of skill from Colin as he scooped the ball over the head of the defender standing in front of him for Nick to run on to and cross. Unfortunately neither Gareth nor Jay could latch on to the ball and Ashley laid it back for Craig to strike it over the bar.

Colin again set Nick free on the right and a peach of a cross from the by-line saw Jay's shot from only a couple of yards deflected out for a corner. Tom came thundering in at the back post but failed to get a good connection with his header and although it was powerful it was also over the bar.

Whilst not entirely one-way traffic, we had definitely had the territorial advantage and most of the play—but nothing in the goals for column to reflect our superiority.

HALF TIME: COLTS 0 ST ANNES 0

Andy refrained from making any changes at half time, no doubt confident that goals would come, given our domination. I guess that the St Annes' manager's team talk must have been more successful in terms of galvanising his players. It's an old saying that "football is a game of two halves", but St Annes were twice the team in the second half that they had been in the first. Obviously the Shredded Wheat was starting to work!

It needed a good tackle from Tom to prevent a St Annes forward from getting in a shot, Dan completing the mopping up by putting the ball out for a corner.

Another attack by St Annes saw Sam down quickly at a forward's feet to claim the ball. We appeared to be losing our grip in midfield, as St Annes pushed further forward.

Ten minutes in to the half and Andy took the opportunity of a delay for attention to an injured St Annes player to rearrange the team. Craig, in particular, was suffering from a chest cold that was tiring him:

	Sam Johnson	
Tom Hamblin		Craig Palmer
Nick Guest		Phil Knight
	Colin Stallard	Dan Payne
Gareth Smith		Ashley Rowe
	Luke Temblett	Jay Beale

Ashley managed another shot that the 'keeper did well to turn round the post. The corner was cleared and St Annes broke forward, but Dan got back in time to clear the danger. Another attack was foiled again by Tom and the ball quickly cleared to the other end where Ashley broke clear and attempted to place the ball past the 'keeper only to be foiled by another block. Dan then worked a space on the edge of the area for a shot and although he bent the ball inside the post the 'keeper was well positioned to save.

A free kick from 40 yards was then blasted by Dan, but straight at the 'keeper who held the ball above his head.

Twenty minutes in to the half and a period of sustained pressure from St Annes culminated in Sam having to use hands and feet to stop a hard low cross. A cross from our left flank then took a deflection off Dan, and on to the crossbar before going safe.

Back at the other end and Jay flashed another shot just wide.

Finally, we got the breakthrough after 25 minutes when Gareth played a ball in from the right in to the path of Dan who gave the 'keeper no chance, planting the ball high in to the net from the edge of the area (1-0).

Another long clearance from Tom and Jay hared down the right wing and thrashed another shot wide of the far post. A ball from Colin out to Ashley on the left saw him take his shot early and send the ball only a couple of feet wide of the near post.

A long ball from Nick saw the 'keeper just beat Jay to the ball and concede a corner. St Annes cleared and broke quickly, but again Dan – having now slotted back in to the back four after giving Craig a breather – was on hand to hoof clear.

With St Annes pressing forward it presented us with the opportunity to try and catch them on the break and Gareth set up Colin for a shot that was straight at the 'keeper. Colin then repaid the favour setting up Gareth for a run on goal that ended with a shot wide under pressure from a defender as the 'keeper came out quickly to narrow the angle.

A poor kick from the 'keeper saw Phil intercept and make ground down the left before centring. The ball came out to the right flank where Tom made a strong run before his centre was hooked out for a corner. Tom met the corner but headed straight in to the 'keeper's arms.

The final minute saw Luke, who had seen little of the ball, running through on goal but being crowded out.

FULL TIME: COLTS 1 ST ANNES 0

5th December – League Results

Eastwood	6	Coalpit Heath	2
Fry Club	1	St Annes	0
Henbury	5	Shirehampton	0
NBC	2	Frampton	4
Stapleton	6	St Nicholas	3

TEAM FACTS

Appearances (maximum = 13)

- (i) Full appearances (played the whole game)
- (ii) First half appearances (substituted)
- (iii) Second half appearances (substitute)
- (iv) Absent (not available)
- (v) Playing percentage (see ** below)

** This shows the percentage of time each player has played, according to his availability. Full appearances count as one, first or second half appearances count as a half. Add these together and divide by availability (total games minus absent figure) and you get the playing figure. It's not entirely accurate because for instance, Mark came off injured in the first two games before completing the first half – but it does give an indication that Andy is trying to give all the players an opportunity to contribute.

Jay Beale	9	1	2	1	87
Ian Field	7	1	3	2	82
Nick Guest	7	2	1	3	85
Tom Hamblin	12	1	0	0	96
Sam Johnson	11	0	0	2	100
Liam Kavanagh	3	2	2	5	63
Phil Knight	10	1	2	0	88
Jason McCrossan	10	0	1	2	95
Craig Palmer	10	2	1	0	88
Dan Payne	9	1	2	1	87
Ashley Rowe	7	2	1	2	77
Gareth Smith	10	2	1	0	88
Colin Stallard	10	1	2	0	88
Mark Webb	8	3	1	1	83

Goals

- 17 – Beale;
- 13 – Payne;
- 9 – Guest, Smith;
- 7 – Rowe;
- 6 – Palmer;
- 4 – Field, Hamblin,
- 3 – McCrossan, Stallard;
- 1 – Kavanagh, o.g.

St Annes are again the opponents for our next match. After their second half display they'll be confident that they can turn us over on their own ground. Personally, I think that we'll not miss as many chances again and that our defence will once again prove to be too strong for them. Let's hope we're back to full strength, as well.

Fixtures				
Sep	12	A	St Nicholas 'B'	4-1
	19	H	Frampton Rangers 'A'	3-0
	26	A	Shirehampton Colts - Cup	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	3-6
Nov	7	A	North Bristol Colts	21-2
	14	H	Stapleton Juniors	4-2
	21	H	Henbury O B Colts 'B'	5-2
	28	A	Shirehampton Colts	12-1
Dec	5	H	St Annes Rangers	1-0
	12	A	St Annes Rangers	
	19	H	St Nicholas 'B'	
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	

League table as at 5th December

Fry Club	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Fry Club	11	11	0	0	63	9	33
Stapleton	10	9	0	1	56	15	27
St Annes	9	6	1	2	28	19	19
Henbury	9	6	0	3	35	17	18
Frampton	10	5	1	4	50	28	17
St Nicholas	9	4	1	4	38	31	13
North Bristol	12	3	2	7	28	59	11
Warmley	8	3	0	5	19	21	9
Eastwood Boys	9	2	1	6	18	50	7
Shirehampton	10	2	1	7	20	54	7
Christchurch	8	0	3	5	11	31	3
Coalpit Heath	9	1	0	8	19	51	3

"NAME AND SHAME" - THE NEW GAME

Andy has requested that I publish the names of those still to produce copies of birth certificates, parents forms, information forms, and outstanding tournament fees. As he confidently expects these all to come in by the 19th December (the St Nicholas match) I shall not be listing the culprits until then.

YOU HAVE BEEN WARNED!

TIPS AND TACTICS

Crosses

The first objective in crossing the ball should be getting the ball to the back of the defence and into the **prime target area**. The prime target area is an imaginary oblong, the length of the six-yard box and extending from the penalty spot to two yards inside the six-yard box. Four out of every five goals scored from crosses are scored from inside this area.

It is not always necessary for an attacker to dribble past a defender before crossing. Often it is not only unnecessary, but also undesirable. The time taken to beat a defender is often all the time his team-mates need to take up defensive positions in the prime target area.

Players on the flank should look to release the ball early, if necessary from fairly deep, wide positions.

If the 'keeper is covering the far post try and hit the ball to the near post. If the 'keeper is covering the near post, hit the ball to the far post.

The best crosses are those that give defenders as little time as possible in which to recover and make it as difficult as possible for them to play the ball. In practice this means crosses hit to the back of the defence, low and with pace. Low means below head height, but preferably not along the ground. This height is ideal for attackers running in to volley or to make diving headers at goal, and is particularly difficult for defenders to clear to any distance.

The cross should be hit with pace to give defenders as little time as possible in which to recover and make sure that any deflection off an incoming player, attacker or defender, will have sufficient pace to score.

Finally, aim the cross in to space for the attacker to run on to rather than where he is standing. Otherwise, by the time the ball reaches him, so will his marker. If there are two attackers waiting for a cross, one should attack the near post and one attack the far post, so as to eliminate some defenders from intercepting the cross.