

FRY CLUB COLTS

U13 MATCH REPORT U14

Number 18

18th February 2000

IMPORTANT: THERE IS NO TRAINING NEXT WEEK (25th February)

Sorry that work commitments meant that I was unable to print a Match Report for last weekend. Fortunately, with half term coming up you'll have plenty of time for reading as well as practice and training!

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Today's line-up, for various reasons, had quite an attacking look to it. It certainly held the promise of lots of goals, but only time would tell if promise would be fulfilled. At least it was a calm day, unlike last weekend.

Greg Tucker

Tom Hamblin Sam Jones Phil Knight

Jack Gooding Zolly Vanyai
Jamie Bryant Jay Beale

Chay Welsh Ross Ashman Jack Belsher

Substitutes: Lee James (13 – Jack Gooding), Joe Garland (35 – Tom Hamblin), Nick Ford (55 – Jamie Bryant).

Brislington kicked off but were quickly caught offside. Tom launched the free-kick long and an excellent head-on by Ross was pounced on by **Jamie** who raced through and calmly lobbed the 'keeper from outside the penalty area. One minute gone, one goal up, great start!

Five minutes in to the half and possibly the best move of the match. Jamie and Jack G combined

on the right before switching the ball across field to Jay on the left. He laid it back for Phil to play the ball through to Jamie whose cross sailed over the 'keeper and fell just right for **Jack B** to slide the ball over the line (2-0).

Two minutes later and a good run through by Ross ended with him crashing a shot against the bar. **Jack B** dashed in to poke the ball goalwards and **Chay** finished the job off (3-0).

Again we caught Brislington offside as they broke forward – Dan Payne having one of his more influential games, as linesman! We in turn broke forward and **Jack B** set up Ross for a shot that lacked power and the 'keeper managed to save with his legs.

A foul on Jamie 40 yards out gave **Jack G** the opportunity to disobey the manager's call and shoot rather than centre the ball. The shot wasn't particularly great, but **Zolly** got enough of a touch to deflect it past the 'keeper (4-0).

A bit of sloppy play in midfield gave Brislington the chance to break through but Jamie and Zolly both got back to do some defending and managed to clear the ball as far as Ross. His through ball was chased down by **Jack B** and although the 'keeper was out to the ball first his clearance was muffed and **Jack** was able to knock the ball past him and in to the net. Eleven minutes gone and five goals to the good!

So far the tactics were working so perhaps now would be a good time to explain the strategy surrounding team selection! Dan was rested for this game, having struggled over the last couple of weeks with a thigh strain. Also, we've conceded a few goals through some undisciplined

defending. Dave wanted to give some coaching and tips to Lee – so he could fill Dan's boots (*so to speak*) – and to Joe – so he could better organise the defence. He thought this could be best accomplished by them watching from the line (*Joe might watch better than he listens!*).

Lee's chance came sooner than anticipated as Jack Gooding hobbled off with a recurrence of his knee injury after only thirteen minutes – Jamie took over as captain.

This clearly affected our rhythm, as we didn't score for another ten minutes! Indeed, a quick break by Brislington saw them force a corner that Phil headed off the line. Another through ball from Brislington took a deflection off Tom and it took a good save from Greg, with his feet, to deny them a goal.

We responded with a shot from Jack that hit the bar, but he was not to be denied. Two minutes later in a goalmouth scramble Chay, Jack and Jay all tried to work a shooting opportunity before **Jack** managed to tuck the ball in to the corner of the net (6-0).

Chay headed on a good cross in from Jamie, but Jack couldn't quite get on the end of it. A cross from Jay, on the left, was then met on the volley by Chay at the far post; unfortunately the 'keeper was well positioned to save at the second attempt. Jack was then fractionally wide with an effort from the edge of the area.

As half time approached, an excellent through ball from Zolly allowed Jay a clear run through at goal. Rather than subtly blasting the ball, as normal, he tried to dink the ball round the 'keeper, only to hit the shot a foot wide of the post.

Zolly then set Ross free, but he was foiled by another good stop by the 'keeper. Brislington couldn't clear the ball, however, and when the ball was played back in to the six-yard box **Chay** was on hand to deliver the coup de grace (7-0).

HALF TIME: FRY'S 7 BRISLINGTON 0

Tom came off at half time to allow Joe to come on, head now hopefully filled with new-found tactical nous!

Straight back on the attack and a short corner on the left saw Jay cross with his right foot for **Ross** to beat the 'keeper with a good header in off the far post (8-0).

A minute later and Jamie got in a cross from the right that Ross glanced wide. Jay managed to prevent the ball going out of play and crossed back in for Ross to head just wide. A minute later though and a long throw from Jay was cleared only as far as the edge of the area where **Zolly** shot through a crowd of players, past the motionless 'keeper (9-0).

A through ball from Zolly was then turned back by Chay for Jamie to hit his shot almost twenty yards wide of the goal! Clearly the captain's armband hampers your shooting ability!

Meanwhile, Sam and Joe had nodded off at the back and allowed a Brislington forward to get through only for Greg to bring off a smart save as the forward tried to round him.

Mid way through the half and Jay won a corner on the left, swung the ball in and **Phil** rose to head in at the near post (10-0). Two goals in consecutive games, following his first for the U13s, Phil puts his new-found goal-scoring form down to a switch to a pre-match diet of BN chocolate flavour biscuits!

Jamie then powered down the right flank and with the crowd yelling for him to get in an early cross he took the ball nearly to the by-line before crashing a shot in, just under the bar (11-0). A minute later and a good head-on by Ross allowed Jack to burst in to the area. From the sidelines it looked like he was pulled back, but the referee decided it was a case of 'six of one, half a dozen of the other' and waved aside claims for a penalty.

A quick throw from Greg allowed Phil to make ground down the left before playing Jay through only for a good defensive tackle, at the expense of a corner, to rob him of the shooting opportunity. From the corner Ross headed just over the bar.

A good ball out to Chay on the right and **Jack** was again lurking with intent as the cross came in, to turn the ball in at the far post and post up the round dozen (12-0).

With a quarter of an hour left, Jamie then smashed another shot well wide and was duly substituted. Chay declined the offer of the captain's armband – something of a poisoned chalice presumably – and Nick came on to parade his skills on the right wing! Having now exhausted the supply of substitutes Jay went down clutching an injured knee. Fortunately the sight of Dave and the bucket of cold water was sufficient for him to recover.

A breakaway by Brislington resulted in a firm shot that Greg managed to get a hand to, but could not prevent going in to the corner of the net (12-1). A consolation goal we thought – we wouldn't begrudge Brislington that, they'd continued to display effort.

Nick went on a twinkle-toed run down the right, but unfortunately ran the ball in to touch. Brislington broke forward and as Greg came out of goal he slipped and was sat helplessly on the ground as the ball was knocked over his head (12-2).

Inside the last ten minutes and a good run by Zolly – now wearing the captain's armband – saw his cross deflected for a corner. The cross was cleared to the edge of the box where Lee couldn't quite get the ball down in time to get a shot in, and Brislington managed to clear. Zolly then set Nick free for a run down the right, and his cross was met by Zolly; whose shot hit the bar. Jack was just unable to turn the ball in at the far post. The resultant corner was only cleared as far as **Zolly**, just outside the area who shot over the 'keeper and in to the roof of the net (13-2).

With less than five minutes left, another lapse of concentration and slack defending (*so much for the coaching*) saw the Brislington centre forward peel off the defence and fire past Greg to complete his hat-trick (13-3).

Another corner to us saw the 'keeper punch the ball off Phil's head and Jay crash the ball over with his right foot. Lee then won the ball on the edge of the box and his pass saw Ross' dipping shot only just clear the bar. In to the last minute and Zolly latched on to a clearance and played the ball forward for **Jack** to stroke the ball home (14-3).

A throw from Nick saw Jack lay the ball back for Chay to shoot, only for his shot to be deflected on to the post by a defender. From Jay's corner Nick flew in and headed the ball firmly – but just over the bar!

FULL TIME: FRY'S 14 BRISLINGTON 3

PS Having scored fourteen, I guess it would be churlish to mention the slackness that saw us concede three goals, but I will anyway. It's what cost us the game against Patchway and we must learn to concentrate. I know the game was won, but bad habits are hard to break.

MAN OF THE MATCH

The revitalised, all action **ZOLTAN VANYAI** (see photo!) was the choice of Steve and Scott, this week's experts.



Well done Zolly, all it needs now is for Jamie to remember the trophy!

GOODBYE TO.....

Jason and Marcus

Last season's joint winners of the 'Players' Player of the Year' have elected to try pastures new and have both signed for Hengrove. Jason has been with us for two and a half years but many of his schoolmates are with Hengrove and I can understand his moving to them. Why Marcus chose to leave, after a season and a half, I don't know.

They were both whole-hearted and determined players who could at times both delight and infuriate. We should value the contribution that they have made to the team and wish them well with their new club. It will certainly add interest to our away fixture against Hengrove!

Still, their departure opens up opportunities for other team members...so make the most of it.

RAFFLE TICKETS

Kerry has handed out books of raffle tickets to the boys in the U14 team. Please sell them (or buy them yourselves). We didn't do a raffle at Christmas, we know how there are other demands on your money at that time of year, but the money raised helps purchase kit, balls, etc. for the teams.

U13 MATCH REPORT U13 MATCH REPORT CHRISTCHURCH V FRY CLUB COLTS U13 MATCH REPORT U13 MATCH REPORT

No Sam or Jason available this week, so a slightly changed line-up and a welcome to David Hares, making his debut.

Phil Knight	
Tom Hamblin	Dan Payne
Mark Webb	Nick Guest
Craig Palmer	Colin Stallard
Ashley Rowe	Liam Kavanagh
Gareth Smith	Jay Beale

Colts kicked off and two minutes in to the game saw a long throw from Mark saw Colin make ground down the right, but Jay's finish lacked its customary power. Christchurch responded with an attack of their own that Mark and Tom combined to snuff out.

Nick and Craig then combined down the left to provide Jay with another chance that this time went flying over. Although the early pressure was coming from us, Christchurch were still able to

press forward on occasions. From a fourth minute corner Liam headed the ball clear to Jay and his pass to Gareth allowed him to run at the defence before playing a through ball that the 'keeper just reached before Ashley.

However, in the sixth minute some sustained penalty area pressure, involving Craig, Colin, and Ashley was ended when **Jay** deftly worked his way past three defenders and unleashed an unstoppable shot in to the roof of the net (1-0). A minute later and a good through ball from Tom saw Jay roll a right foot shot only a foot wide of the far post.

A foul on Colin in the tenth minute saw Tom's free kick just evade Jay, but the ball dropped for **Gareth** to tuck away the chance (2-0).

A minute later and another long throw from Mark to Gareth resulted in a neat through ball for **Ashley** to shoot past the 'keeper and just inside the post (3-0). From the re-start Liam won the ball and knocked the ball on to Jay who in return released Ashley, only for his shot to be straight at the 'keeper.

Another long throw created havoc in the Christchurch defence, and the 'keeper did well to spread himself and deflect Jay's shot for a corner. Craig wasted the cross by clipping the ball in to the side netting.

Christchurch managed to launch an attack of their own, but a long clearance from Dan was met by a defender who could only manage to head the ball backwards. **Jay** ran on to blast the ball in to the back of the net from the edge of the area (4-0). Another quick break down the left saw Gareth cut inside and shoot from the narrowest of angles, only for his shot to clip the foot of the far post and Ashley just be unable to turn the ball in.

Twenty minutes in to the half and Jay, with his back to goal, turned on the edge of the penalty area and hammered the ball in to the back of the net. Unfortunately the 'goal' was disallowed as Ashley – some 20 yards away on the wing was stood in an offside position. As Ashley was as motionless as a statue at the time it was difficult to see how he was interfering with play. Had it been Manchester United that had the goal disallowed I hate to think what their players' reaction would have been. However, we accepted the decision in good grace.

Play started to degenerate, with very little movement off the ball, and players treating the ball – as Rob pointed out – like a hot potato. It was all one-touch boot forward, when time was available to control the ball and pick players out with a pass.

Half an hour gone and a corner from Craig on the left saw Jay head just past the post. Christchurch then mounted an attack that Dan did well to get across and break up. We then played the ball out of defence in a flowing move that involved Dan, Tom, and Mark, Nick and Liam, and ended with Colin playing a lovely through ball that Ashley only just failed to reach before the 'keeper.

A measure of our first half dominance was that Phil only had a couple of through balls to deal with, and was not called upon to make a save. It was just a shame that our domination hadn't led to more of the sweeping moves we are capable of.

HALF TIME: CHRISTCHURCH 0 FRY'S 4

Andy switched personnel and formation at half time, and we lined up for the second half thus:

	Phil Knight	
Mark Webb	Tom Hamblin	Liam Kavanagh
	Ian Field	Colin Stallard
Ashley Rowe		Nick Guest
Gareth Smith	David Hares	Jay Beale

The second half saw Christchurch start spiritedly, a good break down our left flank ended with a shot in to the side netting. Their next attack was broken up as Colin brought the ball out of defence and released Jay whose through ball to Gareth was intercepted and cleared by the 'keeper.

Ian forced a corner on the left, but despite the efforts of Nick and Mark, the corner was cleared and Christchurch broke quickly. A strong challenge from Tom stopped the attack in its tracks and Ian completed the clearance.

It was then Jay's turn to be tackled strongly, on the edge of the box, and after treatment to his ankle he was able to continue. Mark took the free kick and curled the ball towards the far top corner. Unfortunately, the Christchurch 'keeper is the tallest I've seen in this league, and he just managed to get his hand to the ball. Although

Mark was denied, the ball fell to **Ashley** and the 'keeper was unable to recover position in time to prevent him from poaching a goal at the far post (5-0).

A good cross in from Colin then saw Jay's backheader evade the 'keeper's punch, only for the ball to be headed off the line.

A quarter of an hour gone and a poorly taken free kick in our half – playing the ball across field for Phil to come out and clear, rather than being played forward, led to us conceding an unnecessary goal. Although the ball ended up back in Phil's hands, his poor clearance put Liam in trouble and his challenge was held off by a Christchurch attacker who drove the ball hard and low past Phil and in to the corner of the net (6-1). A shame really as without Jason playing Phil was confident of keeping a clean sheet. Indeed, this was to be the only save he was to be called on to make in the match!

Christchurch began to push forward a little more, a good clearance by Tom was followed by an interception by Colin when Christchurch broke forward again. He ran the ball out of defence before releasing the ball to Nick. His ball inside to David was unfortunately cut out but Ian won the ball back only to be robbed as he tried to worm his way in to the area. Gareth was then just wide with his shot from Ian's through ball.

We were going through a period where we had taken our foot off the gas pedal and Christchurch seemed to be getting to the loose balls before us. David did manage to get the ball on the right and burst in to the area only for the 'keeper to rush out, and keep on rushing, almost up to the half-way line before booting the ball upfield.

As we then attacked down the right flank a defender handled the ball. Colin lofted the free-kick long and in to the box and **Gareth** neatly lifted the ball over the 'keeper and in to the net (6-1) – our hundredth league goal of the season.

A quick break by Christchurch was foiled as Phil came out quickly to the edge of the area to claim the ball. Again, the quality of the football had taken a downward turn as both teams seemed intent on taking the aerial route forward – long balls pumped upfield. The tactic was bringing little joy for Christchurch as we defended stoutly, but similarly with the skill we possess we could have

created more opportunities by passing the ball around on the floor.

With just over twenty minutes gone, a wayward back-pass gave us a corner on the left. Although the ball was cleared, David and Ashley combined to win another corner, on the right. The ball was cleared as far as Liam, who returned the ball across the penalty area. David's pass to Nick was knocked on for Ian to run through, but he was pulled back on the edge of the area. Mark again aimed the free kick for the far top corner of the goal, and **Jay** rose to head in (7-1).

Another good passing move out of defence saw Liam and Nick combine to run the ball out before passing inside to Colin. Nick was unfortunate in over-running Colin's return pass and allowing the 'keeper to intercept the ball.

In to the last ten minutes and Mark's through ball allowed David again to move in to the area and get in a cross that saw Jay, Gareth and Ian all try and get shots in, only for the ball to eventually go out for a goal-kick. A minute later and Gareth burst through, only to shoot just over the bar.

Another quick break by Christchurch saw Phil out to claim the ball, before Colin hit a speculative shot from more than forty yards out. The Christchurch 'keeper was out of his goal, but the shot was off target.

In to the last five minutes and a run down the left by Jay and pass in to Ian saw him set up David for a shot that was just wide. Another shove on Colin was rewarded with another free kick on the edge of the penalty area. Again Mark came up to take. Again he was foiled as the 'keeper did well to get down low and parry the shot. Again **Ashley** netted the rebound (8-1)!

FULL TIME: CHRISTCHURCH 1 FRY'S 8

A good result for us this weekend was Frampton beating Henbury. It means they, along with St Annes, have all now lost four games.

It looks more and more likely that the game against Stapleton could decide the destination of the Division Two title, although both Stapleton and us still have some hard games left.

Let's continue to be committed in our approach and treat each game we play as being the most important one. That way we won't slip in to bad habits against the so-called 'easy teams'. Win the rest and you're the Champs – take it easy and you could be Chumps!

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Unfortunately, I missed the first five minutes – but was advised that I hadn't missed much, play had been scrappy! It looked like we'd lined up in 3-4-3 formation, or it might have been 3-5-2, anyway the following players were on the pitch:

	Sam Johnson	
	Jason McCrossan	
Mark Webb		Phil Knight
	Craig Palmer	Colin Stallard
Liam Kavanagh		Ian Field
Ashley Rowe	David Hares	Gareth Smith

I saw Gareth burst through only for the 'keeper to block, and David unable to force the ball over the line, a defender clearing. NBC broke but Jason, back after a bout of glandular fever, was able to clear. Another cross in and this time Phil came across to clear.

A good through ball from Jason found Craig running through in the inside-left channel, but his shot rebounded off the foot of the post, but as Gareth desperately tried to finish the chance off, the ball ran back along the goal line and in to the arms of the grateful 'keeper.

A minute later and NBC nearly caught us out at the back, but the attacker prodded the ball just wide.

A long throw from Mark towards the penalty spot was half cleared, but Liam's cross was charged down. Another throw and Liam played the ball back for Mark to get in a good cross that Gareth headed just wide.

Another run from Craig ended with a cross in to the side netting. Moments later and Craig won the ball whilst sitting on the ground and managed to

pass to Ashley whose low cross was met by Gareth who was unfortunate to see his low shot turned round the post by the 'keeper.

A free kick 25 yards out, awarded for handball was hit goalwards by Mark and although the 'keeper was unable to hold the shot cleanly, he was able to clear the ball. As NBC broke quickly, Jason tripped their attacker and NBC were awarded a free kick some 35 yards out. Sam held the shot comfortably. Two minutes later and a short backpass meant Sam had to move smartly to gather the ball off the feet of a NBC attacker.

We were immediately back on the attack and although the 'keeper came out to clear it was only as far as Colin who tried to beat him from 30 yards, but hit his shot wide. Another poor clearance came straight to Craig and he knocked the ball forward to David whose lob also went wide.

HALF TIME: FRY'S 0 NORTH BRISTOL 0

Well, obviously we hadn't played as well in the first half as we had earlier in the season against NBC. Andy was clearly not going to be buying Big Macs for everyone if we scored 20 goals against NBC – again. Also, NBC had shown a lot of spirit and a bit of pace going forward. So, we reverted to the tried and tested 4-4-2 for the second half:

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

Two minutes in to the half and a good ball out wide from Craig to Gareth saw him beat two players and cut inside before being foiled by the 'keeper, holding his shot just under the bar.

Another quick break down our right flank and a fine sliding tackle from Mark dispossessed the NBC forward. From the throw-in an attempted lob cleared Sam but passed just wide of the post.

Back on the attack again and Colin tried to get Gareth in on the right only for the 'keeper to intercept. Gareth reclaimed the ball and laid it back for Liam to strike the ball well, but unfortunately straight at the 'keeper. Nick then broke through, only to be stopped by 3 defenders.

Twelve minutes in to the half and **Colin** picked up a half clearance on the edge of the penalty area and lifted his shot over the 'keeper (1-0). This certainly dispelled some of the gloom on the sidelines!

Two minutes later and a determined effort by Nick was foiled only for the ball to come back to Craig whose low drive was just wide of the far post. Gareth then had a shot on the turn that was just held by the 'keeper. Play was held up for a few minutes whilst Craig received treatment, following a challenge, but he was able to continue. Play resumed with a drop ball and Tom knocked the ball forward where, again, Gareth was just beaten to the ball by the 'keeper.

Mark then produced a good interception and through ball that Nick just failed to get. A minute later and the same combination resulted in Nick getting to the ball and trying to set up Ian, unsuccessfully, with a back-heel.

Twenty minutes in to the half and Andy brought on Dan up front to add a bit of strength, if not pace, to the attack. Nick switched to the right wing where he had tormented NBC earlier in the season, and Liam came off.

I suppose we have to give Andy some credit for this tactical adjustment as a minute later Colin's through ball was knocked on by Dan to Nick. He played the ball in for Craig to lay the ball back and allow **Colin** to repeat his earlier effort (2-0).

Dan was then just unable to reach Ian's through ball before another interception by Mark and through ball for Craig set Nick in motion down the wing. The move ended with Dan again just unable to reach the ball. Then, when Dan did get the ball inside the six-yard box he seemed to want to play 'keepy-uppy' instead of 'getty-downy', and the chance was gone.

A corner on the right saw Dan flick on Craig's centre, and Jason head just over. This was quickly followed by a corner on the left that was met at the far post by **Colin** who headed home to complete his hat trick (3-0).

In to the last minute and a free kick for a foul on Gareth enabled Tom to shoot and Ian just unable to capitalise on the 'keeper's fumble. Injury-time saw us clear long from a NBC attack and for Dan and Craig to play a neat one-two before Dan shot

wide of the far post. A poor kick from the 'keeper saw Colin head the ball goalwards and Dan stride through to lob the 'keeper (4-0).

FULL TIME: FRY'S 4 NORTH BRISTOL 0

U14s END OF SEASON TOUR

Game on!

The only date that was affordable and available and that just about everybody could attend is Friday 7th April to Monday 10th April at Warmwell Holiday Camp, Weymouth.

Eagle-eyed scanners of the fixture list will note that there is a re-arranged U13 fixture on 9th April. Do not despair. There are four options that we are pursuing:

1. Bring the fixture forward.
2. Put the fixture back.
3. Win the league before 9th April.
4. If necessary, Dan, Jay, Phil and Tom will have an early night on the Saturday and be ferried back in the Graham-mobile (or with supporters in a fleet of limousines) for the match.

Clearly, option three is the favourite, but if needed – they'll be there! Anyway, we hope to have 16 players coming away, together with a motley crew of parents, brothers, sisters, and friends totalling 66 in all. Ten lodges have been booked – let's party!

Final arrangements will be circulated by Kerry nearer the date. Some of us will be going down after school finishes on the Friday, others may wish to make their way down earlier in the day. Special needs such as transport of fishing rods, etc. can also be accommodated.

Dave will be looking to arrange two games – Weymouth Eagles (who hosted a game against Bitton last year) on the Saturday morning, with another game to be arranged for the Sunday morning.

NEW SIGNINGS !!

Well, both Andy and Dave have been busy in the transfer market over the last week or so and I can now disclose the new signings. A warm welcome then to four players who are all well known to us.

For the U13s:

David Hares, striker. Made his debut in the game against Christchurch. David also plays for the U13 'B' team on a Saturday.

Mattie Green, striker. Has Avon Youth League First Division experience gained with Longwell Green, and plays for Keynsham Town on a Saturday.

David and Mattie will help to bolster the squad, and provide competition for places. Injuries and absences have seen us short of substitutes on a few occasions this season and with the title at stake it could be a canny move by Andy!

For the U14s:

Rich Healey, midfield / defender. Plays alongside Zolly and Jamie for Brislington on a Sunday, and attends Wellsway School, so already knows half the team.

Chris Uppington, midfield / striker. Also plays for Hanham on a Sunday.

Both Rich and 'Uppy' played for Downend Rangers last season – and guested for us in the Fry Club 6-a-side tournament last summer. Good as Marcus and Jason were, I think we've got two quality signings here who could help us to climb in to third place by the end of the season.

TIPS AND TACTICS

There are five basic skills involved in passing:

- Pass selection
- Accuracy
- Weighting (the pace) of the ball
- Timing of the release of the ball
- Disguise

1. **Pass selection:** The type of pass you select depends on what you want to achieve. If a long diagonal ball to the back of the defence is possible but there are defenders in the way, then a lofted pass will probably reach its target and a ground pass will probably be intercepted. Alternatively, if the ground route is clear then a lofted pass would be the wrong choice – it is easier for the receiving player to control a ball played on the ground.

The skill in passing is largely a matter of selecting the right technique to do the job at the right time.

2. **Accuracy:** This is not everything in passing, but everything else counts for nothing if the pass is inaccurate. Accuracy depends on good technique. The technique required differs according to the situation, however, so it is necessary to master a wide range of passing techniques:

- The push pass with the inside of the foot – a soft pass.
- The instep pass – enables the ball to be hit more firmly.
- Passing with the outside or inside of the foot to bend it round opponents.
- The lofted pass, over opponents' heads.
- The chip pass, applying backspin for control in tight spaces or when playing with a strong wind behind you.

It only needs two of you to practice passing!

3. **The weight or pace of the pass:** Ideally defenders would rather win the ball by intercepting a pass than making a tackle. They can only do this, though, if the pass is weighted incorrectly, or is inaccurate.

Passes that are hit too softly –

underweighted – will be intercepted. Passes that are hit too hard – overweighted – may go out of play, or to an opponent; or they will present control problems for the receiver; at the very least they will give him insufficient time in which to create space.

A good pass is one weighted to reach its target at a pace which creates or maintains necessary space and gives the receiver the minimum of control problems.

4. **Timing the pass:** A correctly timed pass puts the passer's team-mate in a position of maximum advantage whilst making the defenders' jobs as difficult as possible. If the ball is released before the space is available or before there is a team-mate positioned and ready to take advantage of it, then it is being released too early. On most occasions, however, a mistimed pass is too late.

Sometimes the player with the ball does not notice that the pass is on; sometimes he hesitates and gives the defenders time to cut down space and seal off passing angles; sometimes the player for whom the pass is intended runs offside or into a poor position. Whatever the problem, the primary cause is normally that the passer is playing with his head down and failing to look up and observe play unfolding in front of them. Team-mates calling warnings or instructions can help here.

5. **Disguise:** Good defenders will always try to make play predictable. Attackers must, therefore, try to do the opposite, to make it more difficult for defenders to read the game. The best way to do this is for attackers to pretend to make one movement and then make another – to disguise their intentions.

There are many simple ways of disguising a pass: pretending to play the ball and then holding it; pretending to stop the ball then letting it run; pretending to pass in one direction then passing in another direction. In every case the false movement must be exaggerated. It is important that the opponent should get a very clear view and indication of what the attacker is not going to do!

The purpose of disguise is twofold; to create space and passing angles that did not exist before and to deceive defenders into adopting false or poor defending positions.

How good would YOU be if you had to ref a match?

I thought you might be interested in the following, which is an excerpt from an article in the *Evening Standard* of 2nd February. On the basis that circulation within this newsletter is unlikely to affect their circulation figures (although I thoroughly recommend the paper) I'll risk infringing copyright.

"This week representatives of the referees, the players, the managers, and the football authorities had a summit meeting to talk about the perceived problem of refereeing standards.

They agreed an eight-point plan to improve the relationship between the referees and their main detractors, the players and managers.

One of the major points is to introduce an education programme about the laws of football for young players.

But a few others could probably do with going on the course too. Of course, if you are a football fan, you probably think all this stuff about not knowing the laws doesn't apply to you. You already know them don't you? After all, you've played the game and watched it for years.

It's part of the culture of the game to yell at the referee...yet how many of the fans shouting that abuse really know the laws of football? Come to that, how many players, coaches and managers really know the details of the laws?"

Now I'm not casting aspersions against anyone – let him without sin cast the first stone, etc. Mick Dennis, a Sunday morning referee in Hertfordshire has set the following quiz. I scored 8 out of 15, so I shall be keeping my mouth firmly shut in future! See how you do – answer TRUE or FALSE to each of the following – answers next week.

Dave, Jeff, Steve, Andy, Clive, Rob – as managers, coaches, volunteer referees and linesmen, how do you fare?

What about you "knowledgeable" spectators and players?

- 1 An assistant referee (linesman) should signal if he sees a foul.
- 2 There should be corner flags and flags at the halfway line.
- 3 At the start of the match, the team who wins the toss decides which way to kick or can opt to take the kick-off.
- 4 A player can be offside from his own team's goal kick.
- 5 When a corner is taken, the ball must be placed completely inside the arced line.
- 6 If a player tackles an opponent and makes contact with the ball, it is not a foul.
- 7 A goalkeeper cannot drop the ball and pick it up again, but if he parries a shot he can dribble the ball to the edge of the area and then pick it up.
- 8 A goalkeeper who handles the ball outside his area must be booked or sent off.
- 9 You can be booked for spitting.
- 10 If you take a direct free kick and the wind blows the ball into your own goal, it's a goal.
- 11 If a dog runs on the pitch and stops a penalty, you just play on.
- 12 It's a foul throw if the thrower stands with part of his foot on the pitch.
- 13 You're not offside if there is a defender on the goal line.
- 14 A player who has a blood wound should leave the field immediately.
- 15 A striker runs from an on-side position and takes the ball on his chest with his back to goal. Before he can turn to shoot, the goalkeeper knocks him over from behind. The 'keeper should be sent off for stopping a goal-scoring chance.

No prizes here, it's just for personal satisfaction, O.K.?

6th February – U13 League Results

Christchurch	1	Fry Club Colts	8
Coalpit Heath	1	St Annes	9
Eastwood	3	Shirehampton	1
Frampton	5	Henbury	0
NBC	1	Stapleton	4
Warmley	P	St Nicholas	P

13th February – U13 League Results

Another couple of good results for us this weekend. We thought Henbury might prove a stiff test for Stapleton, and the points were shared. Eastwood beating St Annes was a bit of a shock though – mind so was our first half against North Bristol!

Frampton	3	Warmley	2
Fry Club Colts	4	NBC	0
Henbury	3	Stapleton	3
St Annes	1	Eastwood	2
St Nicholas	7	Coalpit Heath	0
Shirehampton	2	Christchurch	2

U13 League table as at 13th February

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	GD
Fry Club	17	16	0	1	106	15	48	+91
Stapleton	16	14	1	1	83	22	43	+61
Frampton	17	12	1	4	76	34	37	+42
Henbury	16	11	1	4	61	34	34	+27
St Annes	15	9	1	5	48	30	28	+18
St Nicholas	14	5	2	7	52	48	17	+4
Eastwood Boys	15	5	1	9	27	62	16	-35
North Bristol	18	4	2	12	37	86	14	-49
Warmley	15	4	1	10	33	45	13	-12
Shirehampton	17	3	4	10	41	68	13	-27
Christchurch	16	3	4	9	26	59	13	-33
Coalpit Heath	16	1	0	15	20	107	3	-87

U13 TEAM FACTS

Goals

27 – Beale;	8 – Palmer, Stallard;
17 – Payne;	7 – Field, Hamblin (2pen);
16 – Smith;	4 – Kavanagh;
12 – Rowe;	3 – McCrossan;
9 – Guest;	1 – Knight, o.g.

Appearances

	Full game	1 st half	2 nd half	N/A	%
Jay Beale	11	3	2	3	84
Ian Field	11	1	5	2	82
Nick Guest	11	2	2	4	87
Tom Hamblin	16	1	2	0	92
Sam Johnson	16	0	0	3	100
Liam Kavanagh	6	4	3	6	73
Phil Knight	14	2	2	1	89
Jason McCrossan	14	1	1	3	94
Craig Palmer	14	3	2	0	87
Dan Payne	11	2	4	2	82
Ashley Rowe	10	4	3	2	79
Gareth Smith	15	2	2	0	89
Colin Stallard	15	1	3	0	89
Mark Webb	14	3	1	1	89

U13 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
Jan	9	A	Frampton Rangers 'A'	1-3
	16	H	Warmley Rangers 'A'	9-0
	23	A	Coalpit Heath	13-0
	30	H	Eastwood Boys 'B'	8-2
Feb	6	A	Christchurch	8-1
	13	H	North Bristol Colts	4-0
	20	A	Stapleton Juniors	
	27	A	Henbury O B Colts 'B'	
Mar	5	H	Shirehampton Colts	
	26	H	St Nicholas 'B' (re-arranged)	
April	9	A	St Annes Rangers (")	

5th February – U14 League Results

Fishponds	2	Avon Park	5
Fry Club Colts	14	Brislington	3
Patchway	1	Hengrove	1
Shirehampton	7	Horfield	2
Winford	2	Whitchurch	5

12th February – U14 League Results

Avon Park	0	Hengrove	2
Whitchurch	5	Fishponds	2

U14 League table as at 12th February

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	GD
Patchway	11	10	1	0	73	6	31+67	
Hengrove	12	10	1	1	68	6	31+62	
Whitchurch	13	9	1	3	56	24	28+32	
Winford	12	7	2	3	54	21	23+33	
Fry Club	12	7	0	5	48	34	21+14	
Shirehampton	14	6	1	7	26	43	19 -17	
Avon Park	13	6	0	7	36	43	18 -7	
Horfield	13	3	1	9	30	72	10 -42	
Brislington	14	2	0	12	27	109	6 -82	
Fishponds	14	0	1	13	20	80	1 -60	

U14 TEAM FACTS

Appearances

- 15 – Garland (1), Hamblin (1), Payne (1);
- 14 – Gooding (1);
- 13 – Bryant (2), James (3), Knight (2), Vanyai (2);
- 12 – Ford (1);
- 11 – Beale (2), Pitman (2);
- 10 – Smith (1);
- 8 – Jones (2);
- 7 – Welsh (5);
- 5 – Ashman (4), Belsher (8);
- 4 – Tucker;
- 2 – Williams (1).

Goals

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

Man of the Match

- 2 – Beale, Bryant, Gooding, Hamblin, Vanyai;
- 1 – Garland, Jones, Pitman, Welsh, 'The Team'.

U14 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	2-1
			(Somerset FA Lewin Cup – 1 st round)	
	20	H	Shirehampton	6-1
	27	A	Winford - Cup	4-5
Jan	8	H	Avon Park Rangers	4-0
	9	A	Backwell	5-5
			(Somerset FA Lewin Cup – 2 nd round)	
			(Backwell win 4-3 on penalties aet)	
	22	A	Patchway Colts	1-7
	29	H	Whitchurch	1-5
Feb	5	H	Brislington	14-3
	19	H	Horfield United	
	26	A	Horfield United	
Mar	4	H	Winford	
	11		Cup – Semi-finals	
	18	A	Fishponds	
	25	A	Shirehampton	
TBA		A	Hengrove Boys	

Is 2-3-5 the way ahead?

With no match last Saturday, Dave, Jack, Phil and I went fishing. As usual, I caught nothing – but it did give me the opportunity to discuss with Dave and Jack the possible combinations of players, and tactics and formations. Opinion was diverse, but given the scoring success in the Brislington match (I don't mean Phil) I think I'm in favour of all-out attack!

U14s – please 'phone Dave on the evening of Thursday 24th February to let him know whether or not you are available to play next Saturday – 26th February, Horfield (A)