

FRY CLUB COLTS

U13 MATCH REPORT U14

Number 22

31st March 2000

A polished second half performance sees off St Nicks

CHAMPIONS !

Belated congratulations to the U13s who clinched the Avon Youth League Division Two title when Stapleton failed to beat Henbury when they met on 12th March. The lack of matches for our U13 and U14 teams during the fortnight leading up to last weekend means I haven't done a newsletter for ages. I've had to get my football fix elsewhere.

AROUND THE GROUNDS.....

I did contemplate going to Ashton Gate and watching City play against Gillingham, but elected instead to go on a spying mission with Dave Gooding and watch Hengrove v Patchway in the cup semi-final.

For two teams with such good defensive records it was a surprise at half time to have a 4 – 3 scoreline. Although Patchway played the better football, Hengrove closed them down quickly; Patchway's play became more frantic in the second half as they sought an equaliser. Kye gave them a lifeline when he conceded a penalty to go with his own goal, but the spot-kick was hit too close to the 'keeper and he got down well to save. So, Hengrove are off to the final to play Winford; unfortunately, Jason and Marcus won't be able to take part, as they are cup-tied.

Sunday saw Steve Belsher and Steve Payne elect to watch Bitton v St Vallier along with Dave and me. Bitton's manager, Ken, opted for a new tactic – Jack Gooding as left back!

The theory was that Jack would ping the ball over the top of the Vallier's defence for the Bitton forwards to run on to. Unfortunately, the Vallier's defence was equal to the task of keeping Bitton out and ran out worthy 2 – 0 winners. Not all tactics work all the time, but if you don't try them you'll never know.

Indeed, a favourite pastime of Steve Payne, and of mine, is to contemplate possible changes in personnel and tactics to suit the opposition. Friday night training sessions can often see us huddled in the "Graham-mobile" – Fry's equivalent of the Anfield boot room – devising formations that are normally met with a scathing look from Dave and a muttered "No chance"! Still, not all of our outpourings have gone unheeded – Ross at centre forward, Jamie wide on the right have both had their merits. We remain divided over some things - the strengths and weaknesses of my fabled 'let's go for it' 2 – 3 – 5 formation, the use of Dan and Jack as a strike force, of Sam Jones as a midfield destroyer, or whether Rich Healey will ever make his debut. Still, these may yet come about! As we didn't see Jack making any incisive runs down the left wing, getting to the goal line and whipping in left foot crosses it's unlikely that we'll be playing him at left back. Having said that, we don't see too many of those from Phil, either!

On the basis that Andy has a smaller squad we've refrained from making suggestions to him – but as we have recently seen Mark and Jason playing at centre forward, albeit only for a short while, against Shirehampton it's obvious Andy doesn't need our help.

With the U14 game against Fishponds called off because they couldn't get a pitch, I took the next Saturday off and went fishing with Phil and Jack.

I know that nobody will be interested in this so I'll just mention that I caught a roach of just under 2½ pounds (nice one, eh Glen?) and leave it at that.

Sunday saw the U13s' sponsored bike ride and penalty shoot-out. Whilst we were waiting for the 'keeper to turn up Dan and Phil went in goal for a parents' penalty competition. Well, there was only going to be one winner. The participating parents (Dave Kavanagh, Rich Smith, Steve Payne, and yours truly) didn't want to show up our manager and coach, and Dan and Phil were trying to curry favour in pursuit of the manager's "Player of the Year" nomination. The result, therefore, was Andy the winner, Clive runner-up.

When the real competition got under way doubts were expressed in certain circles as to the competence of the 'keeper, as he was wearing a Bristol City top. I thought he did well to keep out of the way of most of Jay's shots!

The winner with a 100% success rate was Tom – congratulations – with Craig and Jay tying in second place with four out of five. In alphabetical order, Colin, Dan, Gareth, Ian, Liam, Luke, Mark and Phil faired less well.

So, Andy took the boys, with the exception of Tom (whose bike wasn't up to it – not because he was too lazy), on the bike ride whilst Steve Payne and I went in search of a football match. We'd left it too late to watch the Bitton v St Vallier re-run – the Gloucestershire Junior Cup semi-final had kicked off at 2.00, which was a shame. Again Jack played at left back and this time the tactic worked with Bitton coming out on top 2-0. So, medals in due course for Jack and Marcus (selection permitting) when the final takes place. I wonder if I'll have a chance to talk to Ken about the merits of 2 – 3 – 5?

We ended up watching the second half of Stapleton v Frampton. It was a game both sides needed to win to have a realistic chance of finishing runners-up. I don't know whether this made the players nervous, but there was not too much good football played and we were left wondering how we ever managed to lose to Frampton, who ran out 3 – 1 winners. Full credit to them though for the run they've put together, winning their last 15 league games.

Looking at the other games that weekend, we

could have done with Hengrove U14s hammering Whitchurch to put us above them on goal difference. It wasn't to be though, and Whitchurch pulled off a narrow 1–0 win. Given their improved second half of the season performance against us, this was not altogether a shock. Still, it shows that Hengrove can be beaten by a side other than Patchway (the only side to beat them in the league in the last two seasons), and we're going to have to do that too if we want to finish in third place – and score lots of goals against Fishponds and Shirehampton!!

I'm sure that Dave will have worked out a plan, with or without help from Steve and me! Anyway, I expect Steve will be too busy – Andy saw the following in the *Evening Post* "What's On Where".

→ **DEBBIE**, Royal Table, Barton Hill, Bristol. 4pm.

DAZ, The Bell Hotel, Two Mile Hill, St George, Bristol. 7.30pm. Tel: 0117 9640670.

STEVE PAYNE, The Prom, Gloucester Rd, Bristol.

THIS YEAR'S BLONDE, Jolly Colliers, West St, Bedminster, Bristol. 5pm. Tel: 0117 9406068.

MARGARET AND COLIN, Royal British Legion Social Club Ltd, Staunton Lane, Whitchurch, Bristol. 7pm-11pm.

NOT GUILTY, Shirehampton Working Mens Club, High St, Shirehampton, Bristol. Evening. Tel: 0117 9826454.

NEW PARKWAY SHOW BAND, Old Georgian, Whitehall Gardens, Bristol. 8pm-11pm. Tel: 0117 9756021.

SONNY BLACK AND BAND, The Bell, Walcot St, Bath.

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ST NICHOLAS 'B'
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With Gareth, Mark and Phil away on school camp, and no Nick, Andy launched the following formation on an unsuspecting St Nicholas team:

	Sam Johnson	
Liam Kavanagh		Ian Field
Tom Hamblin	Jason McCrossan	
Craig Palmer	Colin Stallard	
Luke Temblett		Dan Payne
Mattie Green	Jay Beale	

St Nicks' initial forward sortie was cleared by Tom and Jay broke clear on the left, let fly from the edge of the penalty area and his shot crashed off the crossbar and out for a throw-in!

Another break by St Nicks and this time it was Jason's turn to get in a decisive tackle and clear.

St Nicks then tried a couple of long balls down our left flank – trying to exploit Ian's lack of height, but he countered that by winning the ball when it came to ground.

Three minutes gone and a break by Mattie won a throw-in. From this Craig, Liam and Colin played the ball sideways and eventually backwards for Tom to send the ball over the top of the advancing defence for **Jay** to run through and get a toe on, as he was challenged by a defender and the 'keeper (1 – 0). It just shows that by keeping possession we can work openings. Not every pass needs to go forward – but ideally it does need to go to a team-mate!

A minute later and Dan was felled on the halfway line by a kick to the head. After rolling around for a bit and getting no sympathy he got up and trotted forward. Tom launched the free kick in to the box and **Dan** timed his run perfectly to slide the ball in to the corner of the net (2 – 0).

Tom managed to get his head to a corner from Craig, but couldn't direct his header on target. Then from the 'keeper's clearance Ian won the ball and played it crossfield for Mattie to run on to and shoot in to the side-netting. From this start we should have gone on to control the game. However, whether it was a case of being match rusty after our two-week layoff, or the result of post championship cockiness, we let ourselves be out-gunned in midfield and St Nicks came back in to the game. Although we were to still to create a number of chances, and Tom and Jason were in commanding form at the back, we were never to be really in control in the first half.

A quarter of an hour gone and a winning tackle by Dan allowed Jay to hit a ball in to Mattie who controlled the ball well before skipping past three defenders and in to the area. A defender managed to get a foot in and get the ball away as he was about to shoot and although Luke stretched for the ball he couldn't get his shot on target. A foul on Mattie saw Craig's free-kick cleared, but only as far as Jason who returned it for Jay to cross to Mattie who was denied a goal by an excellent save from the 'keeper in a one-on-one situation. Another shot from Mattie brought a corner and Craig's inswinger was headed off the line by a defender.

It was nearly half an hour in to the game before St Nicks created their first clear cut chance, a shot

from the right edge of the area flashing just wide of Sam's far post. We responded with a quick break with Liam clearing to Luke and his ball saw Mattie turn his marker before breaking in to the box and firing wide. Another good move, started by Ian, to Craig, to Luke and on to Mattie saw the 'keeper down quickly at his feet to save.

In to the last minute of the half and St Nicks broke down our right flank and pulled the ball back from the goal-line, past Sam, for a St Nicks' forward to bundle the ball over the line, despite Ian's effort to clear (2 – 1).

HALF TIME: FRY'S 2 ST NICHOLAS 1

The second half saw Luke and Liam dropping back in to the full back berths and Dan coming across to the right of midfield and Ian moving forward on the left. It also saw us being much more positive and a better all round display. Two minutes in to the half and Ian won a header in midfield, despite being sandwiched by two taller opponents, the ball dropped to Mattie who played Jay through, only for his shot to be off target.

A throw from Liam and Colin played the ball in to the box for Jay to turn and appear to be brought down. Unfortunately the referee, resplendent in flat cap, green wellies, and waterproof jacket, waved away appeals for a penalty.

Eight minutes gone and a good move down our left flank saw Colin set Jay in motion and cross for Dan to lay the ball back for **Colin** to waltz round three players, in to the penalty area and plant the ball firmly past the 'keeper (3 – 1). A minute later and a quick throw from Dan allowed Mattie to cross and the 'keeper did well to get down and push the ball out. Jay swivelled and hit the ball goalwards but a defender was well positioned to clear off the line for a corner.

Craig hit the ball low to the near post where Ian pirouetted but couldn't get a shot on target. However, he did manage to get the ball back to Craig and his dink back in was headed goalwards by Jay. The 'keeper just managed to get a hand to the ball and again a defender cleared off the line for another corner, this time Craig's kick rebounding off the near post. Appeals for a hand-ball as the ball was cleared were again dismissed by the referee!

St Nicks broke quickly out of defence but were foiled by excellent covering back and tackle by Jason.

Another good through ball from Colin allowed Jay another run at goal, but again he screwed his shot wide.

Then St Nicks broke forward and as the ball came across Sam got down smartly to save. Play went straight back to the other end and Dan hit a shot just wide.

Three-quarters of the way through the game and Mattie Green was stood a good three yards offside as Jay and a defender went for the ball. The linesman must have figured that the defender got the touch on because he kept his flag down and **Mattie** calmly rounded the 'keeper and stroked the ball in to the net (4 - 1).

Five minutes later and as St Nicks attacked Sam came out of his area and cleared the ball long for Colin to head on, and Mattie played the ball inside for Jay who was scythed down. He got up to take the free-kick and although the shot lacked its normal power Ian managed to flick the ball goalwards where, again, the ball was cleared off the line.

Ten minutes to go and the linesman flagged for offside, the St Nicks defence stopped, the referee decided that the culprit wasn't interfering with play and overruled him. Mattie crossed and Ian hit the post when it seemed easier to score! A minute later though and Ian made amends with a good crossfield ball to **Dan** who strode through and hit the ball low past the 'keeper (5 - 1).

In to the last five minutes and a clearance by Tom was headed on by Jay for Mattie to run on and roll his shot past the 'keeper, only for a defender to get back and hack the ball away. Mattie got the ball back in only for Ian's shot to be blocked.

Another break through by Jay and again a shot screwed wide. A handball by Jason saw St Nicks take the free-kick quickly and get in a shot that flew just past the post. A minute later and a flick-on by Mattie saw **Jay** again burst through the defence, this time dispensing with power and coolly chipping the ball over the advancing 'keeper and in to the top corner (6 - 1).

St Nicks then got in a good cross from our right flank and we were fortunate that their forward knocked the ball over the bar from only a couple of yards out. We managed an even more glaring miss as Colin played the ball through for Craig to run on to and beat the 'keeper to the ball only to then shoot wide of the gaping goal!

FULL TIME: FRY'S 6 ST NICHOLAS 1

Afterthoughts.....

A spirited second half performance after the first half lethargy saw us run out comfortable winners. Tom and Jason were commanding in defence and the back four were rarely troubled in the second half as St Nicks defended in depth. Indeed, had it not been for some wayward shooting and goal-line clearances we could have run up double figures. It's strange how events sometimes even themselves out; two penalty appeals turned down, two chances created from apparent offside positions.

OUTSTANDING FIXTURES

The following games are still to be played

U13

Christchurch	v	Coalpit Heath
Christchurch	v	Frampton
Henbury	v	Eastwood
North Bristol Colts	v	Warmley
St Annes	v	Fry's
St Nicholas	v	Stapleton
Shirehampton	v	St Annes
Warmley	v	St Nicholas

U14

Fishponds	v	Fry's
Hengrove	v	Avon Park
Hengrove	v	Fry's
Horfield	v	Hengrove
Patchway	v	Whitchurch
Patchway	v	Winford
Shirehampton	v	Fry's
Whitchurch	v	Avon Park
Winford	v	Hengrove
Winford	v	Horfield

U13 TEAM FACTS

12th March – U13 League Results

Eastwood	2	St Annes	3
Frampton	8	Christchurch	1
St Nicholas	0	Warmley	5
Stapleton	2	Henbury	4

19th March – U13 League Results

St Annes	4	Coalpit Heath	0
St Nicholas	5	N B C	1
Shirehampton	1	Eastwood	3
Stapleton	1	Frampton	3

26th March – U13 League Results

Christchurch	1	Shirehampton	2
Fry's	6	St Nicholas	1
Henbury	8	Coalpit Heath	3
St Annes	0	Stapleton	1
Warmley	1	Eastwood	2

Appearances

	Full game	1 st half	2 nd half	N/A	%
Jay Beale	15	3	2	3	87
Ian Field	15	1	5	2	86
Nick Guest	13	2	3	5	86
Tom Hamblin	18	2	2	1	91
Sam Johnson	20	0	0	3	100
Liam Kavanagh	8	4	4	7	75
Phil Knight	16	3	2	2	88
Jason McCrossan	17	1	2	3	93
Craig Palmer	17	4	2	0	87
Dan Payne	15	2	4	2	86
Ashley Rowe	10	4	3	6	79
Gareth Smith	17	3	2	1	89
Colin Stallard	18	2	3	0	89
Mark Webb	16	3	2	2	88

Other appearances:

(substitute appearances in brackets)

- 1 – Mattie Green (1), Luke Temblett (1);
 (2) – David Hares;
 (1) – Adam Britton.

Goals

- 36 – Beale; 7 – Field, Hamblin (2pen);
 22 – Payne; 4 – Kavanagh, McCrossan;
 19 – Smith; 2 – Green;
 12 – Rowe; 1 – Knight, Webb;
 11 – Stallard;
 10 – Guest; (Own goals – 2)
 9 – Palmer;

U13 League table as at 26th March

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	GD
Fry Club	21	20	0	1	133	18	60	+115
Frampton	21	16	1	4	102	39	49	+63
Stapleton	21	16	1	4	90	34	49	+56
Henbury	21	14	1	6	82	52	43	+30
St Annes	20	13	1	6	64	35	40	+29
Warmley	20	8	1	11	54	48	25	+6
Eastwood	21	8	1	12	44	76	25	-32
St Nicholas	20	6	2	12	64	74	20	-10
North Bristol	21	5	2	14	42	97	17	-55
Shirehampton	21	4	4	13	44	85	16	-41
Christchurch	20	4	4	12	33	76	16	-43
Coalpit Heath	21	1	0	20	24	142	3	-118

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	5-0
	27	A	Henbury O B Colts 'B'	6-2
Mar	5	H	Shirehampton Colts	10-0
	26	H	St Nicholas 'B'	6-1
April	9	A	St Annes Rangers	

U14 TEAM FACTS

11th March – U14 League Results

No league games this weekend, but the Cup semi-finals were played:

Hengrove	4	Patchway	3
Winford	9	Horfield	0

18th March – U14 League Results

Avon Park	1	Patchway	7
Brislington	2	Shirehampton	4
Whitchurch	1	Hengrove	0

25th March – U14 League Results

Avon Park	0	Whitchurch	6
Patchway	15	Fishponds	1
Winford	18	Brislington	0

U14 League table as at 25th March

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	GD
Patchway	16	15	1	0	114	11	46	+103
Hengrove	14	11	1	2	75	9	34	+66
Whitchurch	16	11	1	4	63	25	34	+38
Fry Club	15	9	1	5	62	39	28	+23
Winford	15	9	3	3	75	23	30	+42
Shirehampton	17	7	1	9	33	54	22	-21
Avon Park	16	7	0	9	44	60	21	-16
Horfield	16	3	1	12	35	89	10	-54
Brislington	18	3	0	15	38	140	9	-102
Fishponds	17	0	1	16	23	112	1	-89

The Winford v Shirehampton game is included in the table as a 1-0 win for Winford, and not included in the above list of outstanding fixtures, as Shirehampton didn't turn up I'm not sure if the game will get played.

Appearances

18 – Garland (1),
 17 – Gooding (1), Payne (2);
 16 – Bryant (2), Hamblin (1), James (3),
 Knight (2), Vanyai (2);
 14 – Beale (2),
 13 – Ford (2);
 11 – Pitman (2);
 10 – Smith (1);
 8 – Jones (2), Welsh (6);
 7 – Ashman (4);
 6 – Belsher (9), Tucker;
 2 – Uppington, Williams (2).

Man of the Match

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

Goals

13 – Beale;
 12 – Vanyai;
 11 – Bryant;
 9 – Belsher, Welsh;
 6 – Pitman (1 pen);
 5 – Payne (1 pen);
 4 – Ashman;
 2 – Gooding;
 1 – Garland, Hamblin, Knight, Uppington;
 Own goals - 1

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
Feb	29	H	Whitchurch	1-5
	5	H	Brislington	14-3
	19	H	Horfield United	7-1
	26	A	Horfield United	5-2
Mar	4	H	Winford	2-2
Apr	1	A	Hengrove Boys	
	15	A	Shirehampton	
TBA		A	Fishponds	