

FRY CLUB COLTS

U14 MATCH REPORT U15

Number 1

4th September 2000

Welcome to the start of the new season; nearly five months have passed since our last league matches. The U-15s (or U-14s as they were then) never actually fulfilled their fixture list, neither Shirehampton nor Fishponds being able to agree on a date with us. Shire was awarded the points as we were unable to field a team for the original fixture (due to half the squad attending a school event), and we were awarded the points for the Fishponds fixture. The final table therefore was:

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Patchway	18	17	1	0	119	11	52
Hengrove	18	14	1	3	80	13	43
Whitchurch	18	12	1	5	64	29	37
Winford	18	11	3	4	79	25	36
Fry Club	18	10	1	7	64	42	31
Shirehampton	18	8	1	9	34	54	25
Avon Park	18	7	0	11	44	62	21
Horfield	18	3	1	14	35	91	10
Brislington	18	3	0	15	38	140	9
Fishponds	18	0	1	16	23	113	1

In case anyone can't remember how the U-13s did, here is the final table!

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	GD
Fry Club	22	21	0	1	135	18	63	+117
Frampton	22	17	1	4	112	42	52	+70
Stapleton	22	16	1	5	90	36	49	+54
Henbury	22	15	1	6	86	53	46	+33
St Annes	22	13	2	7	67	40	41	+27
Warmley	22	10	1	11	63	49	31	+14
Eastwood	22	8	1	13	45	80	25	-35
St Nicholas	22	7	2	13	67	76	23	-9
Christchurch	22	5	4	13	39	86	19	-47
Shirehampton	22	4	5	13	47	88	17	-41
North Bristol	22	5	2	15	42	104	17	-62
Coalpit Heath	22	1	0	21	24	145	3	-121

THE PRESENTATION NIGHTS - END OF SEASON AWARDS

Our own evening disco was well attended, the speeches were up to their normal below average standard – but everyone enjoyed themselves. Congratulations to the following for their awards:

TOM HAMBLIN: U-13 Players' Player of the Year.

IAN FIELD: U-13 Parents' Sportsman of the Year.

JAY BEALE: U-14 Players' Player of the Year, U-14 Parents' Player of the Year, U-13 Golden Boot Award, Best Supporting Actor.

NICK GUEST: U-13 Most Improved Player.

DAN PAYNE: U-14 Clubman of the Year.

On then to the Fry Club Awards Evening – which coincided with the Avon Youth League Presentation Evening. Andy and the team dashed back in time for Andy to parade the Second Division Shield, and announce the following winners:

DAN PAYNE: Player of the Year - a touch of deja vu here - Dan won the same trophy the previous season.

LIAM KAVANAGH: Sportsman of the Year.

Dave's awards for the U-14s went to:

JAMIE BRYANT: Player of the Year.

CHAY WELSH: Sportsman of the Year.

TOM HAMBLIN and **JAMIE BRYANT** also picked up the team penalty shoot-out trophies.

Well done to the above and to all the players. After all, football is a team game.

SIX – A – SIDE TOURNAMENTS

Mixed success, some excellent performances, some average performances, some below par performances.

At our own tournament we were less than impressive – neither the U-13s nor either of the U-14 teams progressing past the group stages.

Corsham saw a better outcome for the U14s, where we made it to the semi-finals, but at the Bitton tournament, against some good quality opposition we were again unable to get over the first hurdle.

Meanwhile, at Warmley the U13s stormed through to the semi-finals before crashing out.

Swindon saw the U-13s in action on the Saturday and fail to make it through the group stage. On Sunday the U-14s fared slightly better, making it to the quarterfinals.

Pride of place, however, goes to the U-13s for their performance at Radstock. Sam, Tom, Jason, Nick, Craig, Jay and David survived a roller coaster group stage, winning two and losing two before progressing to the knockout stage. The semi-final was 0-0 at the end of extra time and Sam came off. Nick, Craig, and Jason followed at one-minute intervals to leave just Tom and Jay on the pitch. Andy was torn between Plan "A" – play the ball around, or Plan "B" – get the ball up to Jay. Whilst considering the merits of each of these tactics, and trying to find a coin to decide, Jay scored the golden goal. The final saw us pitted against Chippenham Town who had beaten us 2-0 in the group stage. An impressive performance saw us combine plans "A" and "B" to run out 1-0 winners, courtesy of a strike from Jay. Well done, lads.

WANSWELL TOURNAMENT – 27th August

We travelled to Berkley Power Station for this 11-a-side tournament with a bare 11 players, including a couple of guests – three if you include Nick – and no manager. One of these factors was to prove a hindrance!

Clive was our choice as substitute manager, but he'd dropped off Colin and left by the time the

Grahamobile arrived. Steve Payne took on the mantle of manager, backed up by Dave Gooding as tactical guru. Given the balance of our squad we adopted an attacking 3-4-3 formation for the first two minutes of our opening game against St Vallier's:

	Sam Johnson	
Curtis Jacks	Tom Hamblin	Phil Knight
	Colin Stallard	Dan Payne
Nick Guest		Ian Field
	Gareth Smith	Jay Beale
		Chay Welsh

Two minutes in to the game and Ian was crocked, an ankle injury meant he was to take no further part in the tournament.

Still, we held out for a 0-0 draw before going on to defeat Wanswell Wanderers 2-0 (Nick, Gareth), Thornbury Falcons 3-1 (Gareth, Dan, Chay), and Whitchurch Sports 'A' 1-0 (Dan, pen).

At this stage Valliers had recorded the same scores as us against Whitchurch and Wanswell, and still had to play Thornbury. We both had to play Churchdown Panthers – the weakest team in the group. Andy "I am about to become a grandfather" Glover had been keeping in touch by mobile 'phone and decided that with the chance of glory he had better make a dash up the A38 – groans of dismay from everyone!

Anyway, Valliers stuck six past Churchdown and five past Thornbury. This meant we had to win our last game by eight goals to finish as winners. Against a packed defence and still a player short this proved beyond us although we ran out 3-0 winners (Jay 2, Curtis), to finish the tournament unbeaten as runners-up.

Transfer Market News

For various reasons players come and go in the course of the season, or in the close season; and so we wish all the best and say good-bye to Ashley Rowe and David Hares from the U-13s; and Chris Uppington, Jack Belsher and Sam Williams from the U-14s.

However, Dave has raided the transfer market and brought in to the U15s:

Craig Mehew is known to most of the U14s already. Apart from having the misfortune to be related to Dan Payne, Craig guested for us in the Fry's 6-a-side tournament. Previously the custodian of the St Vallier's goal, Craig now plays for Avon Athletic on a Sunday and has signed as cover in case of injury to Nick or Greg.

John Pitt has joined the U-15s from Brislington. John too should be well known to us – especially our defence. Amongst the 24 goals he scored for Bris last season were 4 against us. John will increase our attacking options, possessing a good turn of pace and a strong left foot shot.

Meanwhile, for the U-14s Andy has snapped up:

Joe Cook, who has played for the U13s in some of our 6-a-side teams now signs on. Joe previously played for Hanham Boys and is also playing senior football alongside his Dad! Andy is looking to play him in either midfield or at the back.

LOST - £92 by the U-15s

How can this be, I hear you asking?

Well, every player in last year's U-14 squad (with the exception of Jay, Greg and Nick) was handed a complete set of kit – shirt, shorts, and socks.

Handed out were: 16 shirts, 16 pairs of shorts, and 16 pairs of socks.

So, it was disappointing that, handed back were only: 16 shirts, 8 pairs of shorts, and 12 pairs of socks.

It doesn't take a mathematical genius to work out that at £10 a throw for shorts and £3 for each pair of socks that we have to fork out £92 to replace lost kit.

As we got back full sets from all those players who left, during or at the end of the season, the missing kit is with you players still registered! So where is it?

HAVE ANOTHER LOOK FOR IT!

Having just purchased a new yellow change strip for £470 and also got a full Fry's strip handed down by the U-16s we want to hang on to it all. So, as both sets of kit are numbered, all outfield players will have a squad number and be given a full set of both strips, for which you will sign a receipt. **You will be responsible for its safe return or to pay for any lost kit.**

*Players turning up to matches with the wrong kit (we will **not** be wearing the yellow strip at all away games) will have to return home to get it or not be selected. Listen at training to find out which colour strip we will need for matches – if in doubt bring both!*

PRE-SEASON FRIENDLIES

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CHIPPENHAM TOWN
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With Dan and Phil starting off with the U-15s against Salford Stars on the adjoining pitch, Ian still unfit, and Craig also unavailable, the team lined up:

Sam Johnson
Tom Hamblin Jason McCrossan
Mark Webb Joe Cook
David Hares Colin Stallard
Nick Guest Liam Kavanagh
Gareth Smith Jay Beale

I'm indebted to Dave Kavanagh for taking on the mantle of team reporter for this game.

The first five minutes was fairly even, the play being concentrated in the middle third of the pitch. However, with ten minutes gone a counter attack saw the ball crossed in from the left flank, clear Tom, for Chippenham's centre forward to flick the ball in at the far post (0-1).

A period of sustained pressure from Fry's culminated in Town's 'keeper just getting his hand to a ball that bounced over him, at the expense of a corner that was wasted.

A good through ball from Tom nearly sent Dave away, but a defender put it out for another corner. Jay's header was blocked on the line, and the ball cleared.

Fry's continued to press, a free kick for pushing led to another corner, Tom's header being headed off the line. A good throw from Mark produced another corner, and another free kick from Tom was punched out by the 'keeper.

Misfortune after 25 minutes – a difficult bouncing ball appeared to hit Jason on the chest, but the referee awarded a penalty, converted (0-2).

HALF TIME: FRY'S 0 CHIPPENHAM 2

After another even passage of play at the start of the second half, a throw-in and pass from Joe gave **Jay** an opportunity that he converted from just inside the box (1-2).

Joe then had a good effort just go wide of a post, before Jay unleashed a thunderbolt that the 'keeper just managed to parry and divert over the bar. Although Fry's were playing some good football we couldn't capitalise. It was not all one-way traffic though, Chippenham forced a corner that came to nothing, and then from a Fry's corner Tom's shot was blocked. A cross from the left was dropped by the 'keeper, but scrambled away before a good run by Joe ended with a shot that rattled the bar.

Most of the pressure was now coming from Fry's, Chippenham not looking as composed as they had in the first half, although Sam had to be at his best to hold a clever chip shot.

With only minutes to go, Chippenham were awarded a free kick five yards outside the area, and although Sam got a hand to the ball he was unable to stop it crossing the line (1-3). The Chippenham 'keeper then managed to beat out a shot in the dying seconds as we continued to press forward.

FULL TIME: FRY'S 1 CHIPPENHAM 3

Afterthoughts.....
Results are not the important thing in pre-season friendlies, it is performance that matters, working on match fitness, and trying new tactics and personnel. Andy was pretty pleased with these aspects, and we now look forward to the start of the season.

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SALTFORD STARS
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With Jamie and Zolly both on a spot of R&R in Cyprus, Tom and Jay in the U-14 starting line-up, and Nick injured, Dave called upon Steve Bacon as a guest, and we started off:

Craig Mehew
 Joe Garland Phil Knight Sam Jones
 Jack Gooding Rich Healey Lee James
 Steve Bacon Dan
 Payne
 Chay Welsh John Pitt

Substitutes: Ross Ashman

We started well against our local rivals, who only turned up with ten players. However, as we've proved in the past this is not always a handicap!

Our new formation featured Phil as sweeper and a debut for John Pitt. After striking a post in the fifth minute **John** put us in front with a header in the eighth minute.

A chest down and chip from Chay almost beat Greg and then with seventeen minutes gone Jack centred for **John** to glide the ball past Greg in the Saltford goal to make it 2-0.

We had been playing some good football up until now, with Rich prominent in the centre, Steve and Dan making some good runs, and John and Chay looking dangerous.

However, with Steve going off injured we seemed to lose impetus and shape. Twenty minutes gone and Saltford pulled a goal back, lobbing over Craig (2-1).

HALF TIME: FRY'S 2 SALTFORD 1

The second half was scrappy. We conceded a goal after 25 minutes when we failed to clear a corner and the ball crept in off a post (2-2). Just over half an hour gone and Phil needlessly handled just inside our half. From the free kick Joe whacked the ball in to our own net (2-3) – shame really, it was a cracking shot!

Jack got us out of jail just before time with a 40-yard screamer (3-3).

FULL TIME: FRY'S 3 SALTFORD 3

Afterthoughts.....
We missed the strength of Jay and Jamie on the flanks, and our midfield players lost position at times. We need to work at holding our shape better. The new look defence needs more time to settle - some of the marking was poor, but if we can make it work then it gives us more depth in midfield, and we should be able to defend higher up the pitch. John looked good up front – despite having played a full game that morning!