

FRY CLUB COLTS

U14 MATCH REPORT U15

Number 2

11th September 2000

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THORNBURY FALCONS
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With Ian still not recovered from his Wanswell injury, and Nick also injured, Andy's options were limited, and we started off with the following formation:

	Sam Johnson	
Tom Hamblin	Jason McCrossan	
Joe Cook	Phil Knight	
Mark Webb	Colin Stallard	
Craig Palmer	Jay Beale	
Gareth Smith	Dan Payne	

Substitute: Liam Kavanagh (Craig Palmer, 40)

Thornbury kicked off and the first few minutes play was rather frantic as we were quick into challenges and sought to hustle the opposition and not give them time to settle. Even though we didn't create any clear chances it did mean that we were playing in the opposition half and showing them that we were not overawed at stepping up a division.

Our first effort at goal came after eight minutes, Dan heading a long throw from Jay just over the bar. Four minutes later and a through ball from Colin allowed Dan to run through on the left flank only to see his shot from the edge of the area diverted by the 'keeper for a corner. Dan met Craig's kick with a header that went wide.

Thirteen minutes gone and unlucky for Thornbury. Craig swung in another corner and the ball bobbled before Tom shinned it against the post and in to the 'keeper's hands. The referee signalled a goal but the Thornbury defence drew his attention to the flagging assistant. After a short consultation the goal stood, so 1-0 to Fry's and the honour of scoring our first goal in the top flight went to our captain, **Tom**.

The lead was short lived, however. Six minutes later and a foul by Mark, 40 yards out, was rewarded with a free kick to Thornbury. As we lined up to defend it, Dave Webb exhorted the defence to step forward to give Sam room to see the ball, and also to be able to play the Thornbury attackers offside as they ran forward. The tactics worked: we caught two players offside and Sam had a good view of the shot. Unfortunately, the shot was fantastic and nestled low in the corner of the net (1-1) – out of Sam's reach and just where Tom had been standing earlier!

This is known as Sod's Law. Dave was right, and nine out of ten times defences have a better chance of successfully defending their goal by adopting these tactics. If we had been defending on the goal line it was quite possible that an attacker could have got in between Sam and the ball and headed it in.

Play was more even now, but Thornbury's attackers were neither big nor particularly quick and our defence was, for the most part, little troubled. Tom was winning most of the high balls and Jason was sweeping anything else up. Joe was able to get forward on a few occasions and Phil was pretty sound.

Half way through the half and Dan and Jay swapped positions, followed by Craig and Gareth doing likewise.

With half an hour gone, a good flick on by Colin from Sam's clearance was in turn nodded on by Jay and was controlled by Gareth whose pass outside nearly let Dan in; but the ball was cleared for a throw in from which Dan hit a shot just over. Another good move started by Jason, on to Joe and finally flicked on by Craig found Gareth bursting through on goal, but caught fractionally offside.

With half time approaching, Dan looked second favourite as he chased after a through ball from Mark. However, lack of control by a Thornbury defender allowed **Dan** to steal the ball and drill the ball low past the advancing 'keeper (2-1).

Into injury time, and another free kick to Thornbury, again from 40 yards saw the shot whistle wide. Two minutes later and a foul on Tom just inside the Thornbury half was punished as Tom took the kick and hit it powerfully and accurately, just under the bar (3-1).

HALF TIME: THORNBURY 1 FRY'S 3

We kicked off and nearly added to our goal tally when a Thornbury defender's miskick allowed Jay to pull the ball back for Craig to drive narrowly wide.

Thornbury were still looking to attack, however, and Jason came across to intercept a through ball and gallop down the right wing before playing a through ball for Gareth to chase. A good cross in to the near post was put out for a corner. Liam came on to replace Craig and from Colin's corner kick Tom headed just over.

Almost ten minutes gone and Gareth played a good ball in to Colin whose shot on the turn appeared to be covered by the 'keeper only for the ball to take a wicked bounce and the 'keeper had to tip it over the bar. The ball was cleared and as Thornbury's centre forward ran through Jason was judged to have fouled him. The free kick from 35 yards went just wide, which was fortunate as Sam slipped in going across to cover it so it looked more of a belly flop than a dive!

Another Thornbury attack down our left flank saw Sam safely cling on to the cross, and another break down our right flank was broken up by Joe who sent Mark away and his long ball was hit first time by Liam, just past the far post.

Twenty minutes gone and another free kick, 35 yards out saw Sam dive and catch the ball well. We then forced two corners on the trot, and from the second one Dan retrieved the clearance and centred for Jay to cannon a shot against the inside of the post, across the goal, and back in to play. The 'keeper just managed to get to the rebound before Liam.

A good interchange of passes between Liam and Gareth ended with the 'keeper advancing quickly to block Gareth's shot, and then, with five minutes remaining another shot from Gareth was deflected for a corner. Jay held both hands up above his head as a signal before launching the ball to the far edge of the penalty area. Unfortunately nobody had realised what the signal meant – all our players were on the edge of the six-yard box!

Thornbury cleared the ball and won themselves a corner, from which the ball bobbled around a couple of yards from our line with about three players from

each side having a go at scoring or clearing the ball before Sam managed to claim the ball.

A clearance by Tom allowed Jay to sprint forward only to crash his shot in to the side netting. Another piledriver from the edge of the area dipped and swerved but the 'keeper managed to get a fist in the way, or was unable to get his arm out of the way, and the ball flew clear.

In to the last minute of the game and a super through ball by Thornbury split our defence and the cross in was met unopposed by a Thornbury attacker who directed his header towards of the post only for Sam to swoop and save.

FULL TIME: THORNBURY 1 FRY'S 3

Afterthoughts.....

A good, confident start. Some solid defending, strong challenges in midfield and some willing running up front. We also looked to pass the ball around – although on some occasions we could have done with releasing it a bit quicker.

<p style="text-align:center">U15MATCH REPORT U15MATCH REPORT FRY CLUB COLTS V HENGROVE BOYS U15 MATCH REPORT U15MATCH REPORT</p>

Although we had lost our second pre-season friendly earlier in the week – a 4-1 defeat to De Veys, this was the first opportunity for Dave to select from a full squad. Well almost, registration was still awaited for **Mark Webb**, our latest signing, converted from right back to midfield dynamo, and our scorer on Wednesday evening. So, with matches now played over 80 minutes, as opposed to 70, the starting line up was:

Nick Ford	
Joe Garland	
Sam Jones	Phil Knight
Rich Healey	
Jack Gooding	Dan Payne
Jamie Bryant	Jay Beale
Zolly Vanyai John Pitt	

Substitutes: Lee James (Joe Garland, 58), Tom Hamblin (Rich Healey, 68), Chay Welsh (Jamie Bryant, 72).

Hengrove kicked off but we intercepted the pass back and straight away Zolly and John forged in to the penalty area, Zolly shooting straight at the 'keeper. Three minutes later and Jamie broke down the right and centred for John to shoot, but the ball

was blocked and went out for a corner. Jay took from the right, sending the ball deep for Dan to head down and **John** to poke home, despite the efforts of a defender to clear off the line (1-0).

A great start, and play continued to be frantic, concentrated in midfield – both teams playing five across the middle.

Five minutes in to the match and Hengrove broke down our right flank but Joe steamed across to cut out the danger. However, with a quarter of the match gone we suddenly fell apart in a five minute spell of pressure applied by Hengrove,

After 20 minutes Hengrove were on level terms when Jason's cut in from the left and his chip over the advancing Nick hit the bar and the rebound was knocked home past Nick and two defenders (1-1).

Three minutes later and Hengrove took the lead when a good crossfield ball from Marcus allowed a Hengrove player to break clear and guide the ball home past Nick (1-2).

Two minutes on and as our defence stepped up Steve kept his flag down and although Nick got his fingertips to the lob it was not sufficient to keep it out of the net (1-3).

Straight from the kick-off Zolly made ground down the right wing and unleashed a shot that the 'keeper fumbled. Although John was quickest to react the 'keeper wasn't far behind and the follow-up shot was blocked. Another shot from Jason whistled narrowly over before Nick was again chipped successfully only for Sam to get back in time to hack the ball off the line.

At this stage of the game Hengrove were consistently winning first and second ball in midfield, we were being penned back and John and Zolly were being starved of the ball up front. Jack did have a 35-yard left shot that passed harmlessly wide.

Meanwhile a good downward header from a Hengrove corner was well stopped by Nick and booted clear by Jack.

A good through ball by Zolly was just too long for Jamie, and then a foul on Jack, just inside the Hengrove half, gave him the opportunity to swing the ball into the Hengrove penalty area. Jay came hurtling in on the blindside and smashed a header against the underside of the bar. Unlike in 1966 there was no Russian linesman to signal that the ball was over the line, so the effort didn't get the result it deserved.

HALF TIME: FRY'S 1 HENGROVE 3

We again started brightly. Jack launched a free kick for a push in the back on John in to the area; Dan rose well but his header was too high.

Hengrove intercepted our throw-in and their deep cross had to be tipped over the bar by Nick. Although Dan beat Kevin in the air to head clear the ball fell to a Hengrove player on the edge of the area. Nick had to make a smart stop and Rich bundled the ball out for another corner. This time Nick beat Kevin to the ball and punched clear.

We managed to gain a corner and although Marcus headed clear the ball dropped to Jack whose drive from outside the area whistled just wide of the post.

The pace of the game was slowing down now but Hengrove were still managing to string more passes together than we were, and still managing to win more of the ball.

Almost a quarter of an hour gone and in one of increasingly rarer attacks John managed to cut the ball back for Jay. Unfortunately he didn't realise how much time he had and sliced a first time shot harmlessly wide.

Another break down the left by John and a cross that was just missed by Jamie only resulted in Hengrove catching us on the break and Joe was beaten in a tussle for the ball and Nick was lobbed to make it 1-4.

With just over twenty minutes left Lee came on to replace Joe.

Almost half an hour gone and John got half an opening but his shot was charged down. Jay recovered the ball and pulled the ball back for Dan to worm his way in to the area before unleashing a good left foot shot that the 'keeper turned round the post.

Tom came on to replace Rich, and from Jay's corner Dan got in a header, but straight at the 'keeper.

With just under ten minutes left Chay came on to replace Jamie, but the final goal of the game came in injury time as Hengrove centred from the left – Phil was on his own with two attackers – the second one got the ball and steered it past Nick (1-5).

FULL TIME: FRY'S 1 HENGROVE 5

Afterthoughts.....

A bright start and then we fell apart due to some of the old failings – not marking closely, not challenging, scared of heading the ball, not passing accurately, etc.

MAN OF THE MATCH : Sideshow Bob awarded the prize this week. Well done **RICH HEALEY**. Hopefully we'll soon be able to trace the trophy! The last three winners were Jay, Jack, and Nick (which of you has it?).

U15 Fixtures

Sep	9	H	Hengrove Boys	1-5
	16	A	Brislington	
	23	H	Whitchurch	
	30			
Oct	7	H	Redcatch	
	14		Cup Preliminary round	
	21			
	28	A	Fishponds Athletic	
Nov	4	H	Winford	
	11	H	Patchway	
	18	H	Avon Park Rangers	
	25		Cup – Quarter-finals	
Dec	2			
	9	A	Fishponds United	
	16	A	Hengrove	
Jan	6	H	Brislington	
	13	A	Whitchurch	
	20			
	27	H	Redcatch	
Feb	3	A	Fishponds Athletic	
	10	A	Winford	
	17			
	24	A	Patchway	
Mar	3		Cup – Semi-finals	
	10			
	17	H	Avon Park Rangers	
	24	H	Fishponds United	

U14 Fixtures

Sep	10	A	Thornbury Falcons	3-1
	17	H	Whitchurch 'A'	
	24	H	St Vallier	
Oct	1	A	Frampton 'A'	
	8	H	Warmley Rangers 'A'	
	15	A	Avon Athletic	
	22	H	Brislington Juniors 'A'	
	29		Cup – Preliminary round	
Nov	5	A	Bitton 'A'	
	12	H	Whitchurch Sports 'B'	
	19			
	26	A	Almondsbury	
Dec	3			
	10			
	17	H	Thornbury Falcons	

Jan	7	A	Whitchurch 'A'
	14	H	Frampton 'A'
	21	A	Warmley Rangers 'A'
	28	H	Avon Athletic
Feb	4	A	Brislington Juniors 'A'
	11	H	Bitton 'A'
	18	A	Whitchurch Sports 'B'
	25		
Mar	4	H	Almondsbury

As our opponents this season are mostly unknown to us I thought we might be able to gauge our progress by looking at last season's table. I presume that some of last year's 'B' teams have been re-named 'A' in this year's fixtures:

U13 League Division 1 Final table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	GD
Warmley 'B'	20	15	2	3	69	20	47	+49
Whitchurch 'B'	20	14	4	2	64	20	46	+44
Avon Athletic	20	12	3	5	50	34	39	+16
Bitton Boys 'B'	20	11	2	7	54	40	35	+14
Brislington 'A'	20	10	5	5	40	34	35	+6
Thornbury	20	8	5	7	36	33	29	+3
Whitchurch 'A'	20	7	8	7	35	34	29	+1
Almondsbury	20	7	2	11	33	43	23	-10
St Vallier	20	4	1	15	41	54	13	-13
St Nicholas 'A'	20	4	0	16	29	87	12	-58
Longwell Green	20	3	0	17	23	73	9	-50

TRAINING

By the time you read this you will no doubt be aware that training this week was a little more physically demanding. Last week the session degenerated from a shambles to a fiasco, What point is there in trying to kick lumps out of each other?

Neither the U14s nor the U15s have particularly large squads of players, so we don't want to lose players through injury unnecessarily. The alternative is for Andy and Dave to sign more players to cover possible injuries in which case you'll end up playing in fewer matches.

Think before you dive in – it could be you that's injured, or dropped!

Not many results in the paper this week!

Frampton 'A'	1	Bitton 'A'	3
Warmley 'A'	2	Brislington 'A'	3
Whitchurch 'A'	2	Whitchurch 'B'	2