



## FRY CLUB COLTS



# U14 MATCH REPORT U15

Number 9      *Our Cup runneth over – victory for U14s, walkover for U15s*      27<sup>th</sup> November 2000

## GOALIE CRISIS FOR U15s - Farewell To Nick and Craig

*Well, there we were sitting pretty with three 'keepers on the books. Craig was offered the opportunity of signing for Whitchurch and playing on a regular basis. Understandably he accepted, and we wish him well.*

*Nick then decided that he had had enough of football and wanted to take early retirement. I don't know whether it was the lack of action against Fishponds Athletic when he was nearly carried off with hypothermia, or having to play behind our defence against Avon Park that precipitated the decision. It's not often I claim to speak for everyone, but I know I do on this occasion. We shall all miss him. Not just as a 'keeper, but as a character. Who knows, perhaps he'll miss football, perhaps he won't. If it is goodbye rather than a mid-season break then "Thanks a lot". You know you're welcome back, any time.*

*Greg then went down with gastro-enteritis, necessitating a hospital visit, and leaving him unfit for the Redcatch game. Back-up 'keeper and ex-U14 ace 'keeper Phil was also sidelined with a touch of tonsillitis so Dave was debating whether to go for Dan or Jamie or throw the 'keeper's jersey on the floor and last one out of the changing room lost out!*

*With my well known tactical flair I suggested doing away with a 'keeper altogether and playing with eleven outfield players. That way we ought to be able to work the offside trap for once! With most of the Wellsway contingent off partying rather than training, word of Dave's predicament obviously got round. Jamie was so worried that he got his dad to 'phone up to check if he was in goal - if so I think a hospital visit to an ailing relative was planned. Fortunately with the Redcatch game called off he was able to get to the City v Wigan game after all!*

Well, so much for the end of the rainy season. There were no U15 games played at the weekend, and despite the backlog of first division and cup games at U14 level, ours was the only game to go ahead. Still, as Redcatch were unable to raise a team, the U15s sailed serenely through to the BJL Cup semi-final without having kicked a ball in the competition so far!

The route for the U14s is proving somewhat longer. By the time you read this, weather permitting, the third round game will have been played. If successful then that's it until February. We can concentrate on the league, with the next Lewin (Somerset) Cup game probably being after Christmas.

I'm sure that Ross and Nick in particular will be looking forward to the third round – against their old team, St. Annes Rangers. They lost at home last week, 4-0 to Stapleton, so hopefully they will not be feeling too confident – and hopefully we won't go in to the game with a false sense of security through over-confidence!

Anyway back to last weekend, the last in November; autumn has gone and winter is now upon us.

**U14CUPMATCHREPORTU14CUPMATCH  
FRY CLUB COLTS  
V  
ASHTON BOYS  
REPORTU14CUPMATCHREPORTU14CUP**

Nick Frost	
Tom Hamblin	Joe Cook
Nick Guest	Liam Kavanagh
Craig Palmer	Colin Stallard
Gareth Smith	Ian Field
Jay Slade	Ross Malone

Substitutions (all made at half time):

Jason McCrossan (Gareth Smith), Dan Payne (Colin Stallard), Mark Webb (Craig Palmer).

Ashton kicked off. The pitch was boggy, we were playing in to a strong headwind, and it soon started raining. Still, we started pressing forward straight away and were rewarded after two minutes when Jay crossed from the left and **Gareth** raced in at the far post to shoot low across the 'keeper and in to the corner of the net to open the scoring.

We won the ball back straight from the kick-off and Jay, Ross and Ian combined well to present Ross with a half-chance that the 'keeper got down quickly to smother.

Ashton were starting to settle and playing some neat football. They forced a corner, which we cleared, and then Tom headed out a free kick.

Twelve minutes gone and a free kick for a push in the back of Ross saw Tom stride up to take the kick, Jay head the ball on and Craig just unable to reach it before it was knocked out for a corner. Craig swung the ball over and Ian and Ross were inches away from connecting before the ball went out for a goal kick.

A quick break from Ashton saw Joe covering well and a good move started by Liam and also involving Ian and Craig ended with a free kick being awarded, 30 yards from goal. Tom hit a fine shot that the 'keeper finger-tipped on to the bar.

With twenty minutes gone another break by Ashton ended with Joe shepherding the player wide. Then a free kick to Ashton, just inside their half, saw the ball pumped forward. An attacker managed to get in a shot that Nick dived low to his left to hold.

The remainder of the half saw play mainly concentrated in the midfield area. Colin and Craig were struggling to get the ball out of the middle, but equally the Ashton midfielders were not finding it easy to get past them. When they did, our defence looked strong.

A good run and cross from Ross was headed clear by a defender, just as Jay was bearing down on it, was about all there was to shout about in the remainder of the half.

### HALF-TIME: COLTS 1 ASHTON 0

Dan and Mark came on in the centre of midfield with Joe pushing forward to the wide right of midfield, and Jason slotting in to the defence. Two minutes in to the half and we forced a corner on the left. Jay hit the ball over, Dan cracked the ball against a post, and as it looked like the ball was going to be cleared, **Ian** slid in to poke the ball home (2 - 0).

Five minutes later and Jason was almost caught out at the back for lack of pace! A push in the back and scything tackle solved the problem, at the expense of a free kick and word from the referee. Nick pushed the resultant shot round the post and we cleared the corner.

Ten minutes gone and a long throw from Jason was headed on by Jay for Ross to run through only to hit his shot straight at the 'keeper. Five minutes later and the elusive third goal arrived. Scrappy, but they all count, the ball appearing to bounce off the far post, against Ian and Tom, with **Ian** claiming the final touch (3-0).

Nick now went to wide left midfield and Ian moved to the centre as we switched to 3-5-3. Ashton were struggling to get the ball forward and we were looking well in control of the game now that we had the wind with us. Jay burst through and drew the 'keeper before sliding a right foot shot wide of the far post, and then Ross ran clear and saw the 'keeper bring off a good save against a firmly hit shot.

A long ball from Dan saw Ross elect to take the ball round the 'keeper and then, from a narrow angle and with three defenders converging on the goal line shoot narrowly wide. Joe then won the ball and played it in to Dan who dribbled mazily in to the box before cracking a left foot shot for the 'keeper to make another good diving save. Jay swung the corner in for Nick to knock a shot wide.

With 20 minutes gone and as Ashton tried to counter attack, Liam intercepted and hit a long ball for **Ross** to run on to and crack the ball low and true (4-0).

With ten minutes left, as we continued to press forward in numbers, a ball in to the box found **Joe** rushing in to hammer the ball high in to the roof of the net (5-0).

Three minutes later and Ashton managed to get the ball in to the net, only for it to be ruled out by the ref. We retaliated with a run down the left from Dan and a cross in that just evaded Ian and Ross, but the ball was only cleared as far as Liam who found Dan. His deep cross was retrieved by Jay and this time Nick and Joe were just unable to get the finishing touch.

As we moved towards the final whistle Nick and Ian harried a defender in to conceding a corner. **Jay** swung the ball in just under the crossbar, and the 'keeper fumbled the ball over the line (6-0).

### FULL-TIME: COLTS 6 ASHTON 0

## WHY WE NEED MORE PLAYERS

I guess that the ideal scenario for the manager of a junior football team is to have 11 players who are available for every game, never get injured or ill, or suffer from loss of form. A team so filled with equally talented individuals that they never need to train on a cold wet Friday evening and win all their matches. Then there are no selection problems; everyone plays every week; everybody is happy.

Unfortunately, in the real world things don't happen that way. Last season Andy ran the U13s using a basic squad of 14 players and on most occasions managed to give the three substitutes permitted half a game each. However, there were times when we had one, or even no substitute. Andy even called upon 'back-up' players to complete the team – Adam Britton, David Hares, James Williams, Luke Temblett, and Mattie Green all featured in the team at some stage.

In the second division the team was good enough to carry the odd 'weaker' player. From what we've seen of the first division so far this won't be the case this season. Players who are good enough to play in the first division won't be content to sign on as 'bit-players' and only play two or three games in a season when they can be a regular elsewhere.

Of last season's regular outfield players only Ashley has left. Curtis has now signed on as a full-time squad member in addition to Joe and Ross. This means that if everyone is available for selection then even with three substitutes there will be two players each week that won't be selected. Last weekend it was Curtis and Phil who missed out.

Obviously there will be times when not everyone will be available. As they get older the boys do tend to have other commitments and calls on their time (partying, etc.).

Also, it is particularly at the U14 and U15 stage that the boys start putting on the inches and pounds as well as trying to grow moustaches. The growth spurt puts pressure on legs in particular. Last season Dan and Jack suffered hamstring and knee problems that they carried in matches when they should have been resting. This season has seen Joe Garland, Phil and Tom all suffering with knee problems and Rich and Sam coming off in matches with ankle injuries as the challenges and tackles get more physical.

The success, so far, in cup games, added to the poor weather has meant that there will inevitably be a backlog of fixtures come the end of the

season, with the likelihood of more postponements to come through unfit pitches during the winter months. With many of the U14s and U15s playing on both Saturdays and Sundays, and the near certainty of mid-week games come April, the need for a larger squad to cope with injuries and other absences can be seen.

Andy reckons that his squad is now complete. Dave, however, is looking to secure additional players to increase his defensive and midfield options. Two signings may be imminent. This means that competition for places will be more intense. Some players may feature in fewer games than others. They will be disappointed, and naturally so. It's a sad fact of life that you can't please all of the people all of the time. However, boys are naturally competitive. They want to win. The better players will be offered the opportunity to join other teams; if their team is losing they may well go elsewhere. It's happened before. Similarly, those players who don't feature in games as frequently as they wish may elect to try their luck elsewhere.

It's a difficult balancing act for a manager to achieve – rewarding loyalty and trying to be fair whilst trying to avoid complacency and to achieve success in the various competitions. They also have a responsibility to Fry Club as a whole – to try and bring on talent to progress to the senior teams in due course and thereby swell bar profits. Their task is not one I envy.

Whatever happens, I hope you continue to enjoy your football – be it as a player or supporter.

### REMINDERS

#### Don't forget:

**Tickets for the Christmas Disco – available from Kerry Gooding at training on a Friday evening or from me at matches. A snip at only £2 for adults and £1 for children.**

**Donations of raffle prizes would also be welcome.**

**The second lot of £20 subs is also due, if you haven't paid them.**

## U15 TEAM FACTS

F = Played the full game  
 B = Began the game but was substituted  
 P = Played in the game after coming on as a substitute  
 S = Non-playing substitute  
 M = Man of the Match  
 L = League goals  
 C = Cup goals

	F	B	P	S	M	L	C
Ross Ashman	1		3			3	
Jamie Bryant	2	2	1		1	4	
Nick Ford	3	1					
Joe Garland	3	3			1		
Jack Gooding	5		1			6	
Tom Hamblin	2	1	2			1	
Rich Healey	4	1			2	4	
Lee James	2		2		1		
Sam Jones	3	1				1	
Phil Knight	4	1	1			3	
Craig Mehew	1						
Dan Payne	5	1			1	7	
John Pitt	3	3				12	
Jay Slade	4	1				7	
Greg Tucker	1						
Zolly Vanyai	4	2				6	
Mark Webb	1		3				
Chay Welsh	1		4			2	

### U15 Fixtures

Sep	9	H	Hengrove Boys	1-5
	23	H	Whitchurch	7-3
	30	A	Brislington	12-0
Oct	7	H	Redcatch	6-0
	28	A	Fishponds Athletic	24-2
Nov	18	A	Avon Park Rangers	6-5
	25	H	Redcatch – Cup(QF)	W/O
Dec	9	A	Fishponds United	
	16	A	Hengrove	
Jan	6	H	Brislington	
	13	A	Whitchurch	
	27	A	Redcatch	
Feb	3	H	Fishponds Athletic	
	10	A	Winford	
	24	A	Patchway	
Mar	3		Cup – Semi-finals	
	17	H	Avon Park Rangers	
	24	H	Fishponds United	
TBA		H	Winford	
		H	Patchway	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	GD
Hengrove	7	7	0	0	67	4	21	+63
<b>Fry Club Colts</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>+41</b>
Whitchurch	7	4	0	3	36	18	12	+18
Winford	4	3	0	1	38	4	9	+34
Fishponds Utd	6	3	0	3	23	25	9	-2
Patchway	3	2	0	1	12	5	6	+7
Brislington	5	1	0	4	6	48	3	-42
Redcatch	4	0	0	4	4	34	0	-30
Avon Park	4	0	0	3	6	26	0	-20
Fishponds Ath	4	0	0	4	4	73	0	-69

## U14 TEAM FACTS

	F	B	P	S	L	C
Joe Cook	6					1
Ian Field	3	2	2		1	2
Nick Frost	2					
Nick Guest	4	1	2			
Tom Hamblin	8				2	2
Curtis Jack			2	1		
Sam Johnson	1			1		
Liam Kavanagh	5	1	1			
Phil Knight	5			1		
Jason McCrossan	7		1			
Ross Malone	3					2
Jack Morgan	1	1				
Craig Palmer	4	3	1			1
Dan Payne	4		2		2	1
Jay Slade	8				4	12
Gareth Smith	3	3			1	1
Colin Stallard	5	2	1			
Mark Webb	5		1			

### U14 Fixtures

Sep	10	A	Thornbury Falcons	3-1
	24	H	St Vallier (League Cup)	5-0
Oct	1	A	Frampton 'A'	4-1
	8	A	Hutton Juniors (Som Cup)	3-1
	15	A	Avon Athletic	0-1
	22	H	Brislington Juniors 'A'	3-2
Nov	12	A	Westfield Boys (Som Cup)	8-1
	26	A	Ashton Boys (League Cup)	6-0
Dec	3	A	St Annes Rangers (League Cup – Round 3)	
	10	A	Almondsbury	
	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' (LC QF)	
	11	H	Bitton 'A'	
	18	A	Whitchurch Sports 'B'	
	25	A	Bitton 'A'	
Mar	4	H	Almondsbury (LC SF)	
	11	H	Whitchurch 'A'	
	18	H	Warmley Rangers 'A'	
	25	H	Whitchurch 'B'	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	GD
Avon Athletic	6	3	1	2	12	13	10	-1
<b>Fry Club 'A'</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>+5</b>
Brislington 'A'	5	3	0	2	12	11	9	+1
Bitton 'A'	4	2	1	1	10	8	7	+2
Whitchurch 'B'	6	2	1	3	14	13	7	+1
Whitchurch 'A'	5	2	1	2	9	10	7	-1
Thornbury	3	2	0	1	9	4	6	+5
Warmley 'A'	5	2	0	3	14	12	6	+2
Almondsbury	4	1	1	2	8	10	4	-2
Frampton 'A'	6	1	1	4	9	21	4	-12