

onrushing **Mark** who hit it first time from 25 yards. The ball flew straight and true into the top left corner of the net as the 'keeper stood rooted to the spot (1-0).

The crowd swelled as many of the U14 'B' team finished training and came over to watch and support. The game ebbed and flowed for a bit as both teams settled into a rhythm. A good one-two from Ross and Jay led to Ross getting to the by-line and whipping in a low cross, which a defender had to put out for a corner. Curtis swung in a great far post cross and Tom side-footed his volley just wide. At the other end, Danny Hunt dropped deep to receive the ball, turned before we closed him down, and had a shot from distance which flew well wide. A few minutes later and a Whitchurch player picked up the ball 25 yards out, rode the tackle from Liam and lifted his shot high towards the net with Nick stranded on the six yard line. Nick jumped backwards just in time and finger-tipped the ball just over the crossbar. From the resultant corner they headed high and wide.

A good run from Gareth led to a shot from Curtis which the 'keeper saved. He followed up with another save following a run from Ross and shot from Ian. With the half closing, another long shot from Whitchurch flashed just wide with Nick making an acrobatic dive but pulling his hand out of the way when realising it wasn't on target.

In the 34th minute Danny Hunt then picked up the ball on the left wing, used his pace to get past Nick and Tom, and cut inside Jason; but in doing so the ball ran away and Liam was on hand to clear as the last defender. The ball fell to a Whitchurch midfielder who ran crossfield and Curtis, starting on the right wing, chased and harried him all the way to the left back position where, with the help of Liam, they won back the ball. It was laid back to Tom who cleared long down the left wing towards Jay. The right back must have had one eye on the onrushing Jay and let the ball go under his foot. **Jay** ran in on goal and with the 'keeper trying to narrow the angle by coming off his line, delicately chipped it over his head (2-0). Not long after the referee blew for half time.

HALF TIME: FRY'S 2 WHITCHURCH 0

No changes were made at half time and the game restarted. Whitchurch came out with more purpose in the second half and pressed us from the off. The injuries began to hit us then. From a left wing corner, Jay and Ian challenged the

'keeper for the ball. The 'keeper emerged unscathed with the ball but Jay went down having been hit in the ribs by Ian. Indeed Ian is making a habit of using his height, weight and sheer physical presence to injure key members of this team. If you cast your mind back to training before Christmas, Ian injured Andy in a tackle for which Andy still has the bruise. But I digress.

Ross picked up the ball 25 yards out and hit a curling shot that the 'keeper just managed to keep out with a spectacular diving save. A few minutes later and two players went down, Tom with an ankle injury, from which he soon recovered, and Jay with a calf injury from stretching for the ball. Jay was taken off for five minutes as a precaution, but as it looked most likely to be cramp, through lack of match fitness. He came back on, but with Andy warming up the subs - having decided that Jay had done enough.

The Whitchurch player who had injured Tom was given a yellow card for persistent infringements, before Whitchurch reduced the arrears.

In the 48th minute, the Whitchurch playmaker was left free in the middle and played a perfect 40-yard ball out to the left wing where it was controlled and crossed in. Three of our defenders watched it go past them and Whitchurch had a player on the far post to blast the ball into the roof of the net from six yards, giving Nick no chance (2-1).

Play restarted and soon Jay had a chance, six yards out with just the 'keeper to beat - but decided to pass it back to the 'keeper rather than blast a hole in the net! Two minutes later and Tom was fouled on the half way line and play was stopped. Andy used the time to make two substitutions - Joe came on up front for Jay, and Ross came off with Ian switching to left midfield and Craig coming on to fill the right midfield role.

Whitchurch pressed forward with more urgency. They had given up trying to go down the middle as they had met our Tom/Jason wall and had been consistently unable to pass it. Now Danny Hunt found himself unable to get past Nick at right back. When Whitchurch switched play to the left, Liam was just as impassable. We had reduced them to speculative long shots that Nick was able to gather with ease.

In midfield Mark and Curtis were fully in command and Whitchurch players bottled out of 50-50 balls, knowing that it was going to be a crunch tackle and they were going to lose out. A few began to

argue with the referee – which was a good sign for us. A niggly on the left of midfield between Curtis and their No. 9 had them squaring up, but Tom pulled Curtis away. Curtis had a slightly bemused expression on his face, not sure what the problem was!

For the next 10 minutes Whitchurch pressed for the equaliser, their tails up as was to be expected after scoring a goal. However, we weathered the storm and began to take control of the game again. Nick threw the ball out to Ian who ran with Curtis, playing a one-two before feeding the ball to Joe who was unable to control it. Craig picked up the ball and played a great ball over the top for Joe to use his pace but the defender just managed to clear it.

Then, in the 60th minute, the ball was chipped over the top for Joe to race in on a 50-50 ball with the 'keeper. Neither player won it and it was hacked away – although not too far as it was immediately chipped in again with **Joe** this time getting to it first and prodding it past the 'keeper (3-1).

Whitchurch pressed again and a cross in was met by Jason's arm as he protected his face – penalty!

Everyone lined up to watch the Whitchurch player take a very poor penalty that went a yard wide of Nick's right hand post. This lifted us again and a ball out to Craig saw him play a lovely ball through which Gareth was unable to reach. Gareth appeared to be struggling with an injury at this point and Andy made the final change in the 62nd minute with Dan replacing him up front.

The front Dream Team of Joe and Dan – what was Andy thinking of! (*This is a question a lot of us ask – Graham*). But it paid dividends as, in the final minute of the game, Dan picked up the ball in the penalty area and rode three tackles before the referee's whistle sounded. Game over? No. One of the tackles had been deemed two-footed and therefore dangerous – penalty!

The penalty was offered to Jason, who along with Nick G, Phil and Nick F had not scored so far this season – but he declined. **Tom** stepped up and calmly buried the ball low to the left of the 'keeper (4-1). As soon as it hit the back of the net, the referee blew his whistle for full time.

FULL TIME: FRY'S 4 WHITCHURCH 1

Afterthoughts.....

This was another battling performance to follow on from our great draw on Sunday. We are beginning to play like we did earlier in the season and the last two results have been encouraging to say the least. The draw against Whitchurch 'B' was to me the best result of the season after the previous two defeats when we were comprehensively outplayed, and the performance against Whitchurch 'A' included some of our best play and passing this season. If we continue to play like this then there is no reason why we cannot be challenging for honours come the end of the season.

Results: U14s – Week-ending Sunday 1st April

Brislington 'A'	5	Bitton 'A'	2
Fry Club	4	Whitchurch 'A'	1

Results: U15s – Week-ending Saturday 24th March

Winford	10	Redcatch	1
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Results: U15s – Week-ending Saturday 31st March

Brislington	0	Patchway	7
Fishponds Athletic	1	Avon Park Rangers	5
Avon Park Rangers	3	Fishponds Athletic	0

(double header)

Somerset (Lewin) Cup – U14s Sunday 1st April

Brislington	3	Bath Arsenal	0
Frome Sportshouse	0	Shepton Beauchamp	1(aet)

Results: U14s – Week-ending Sunday 1st April

Brislington 'A'	5	Bitton 'A'	2
Fry Club	4	Whitchurch 'A'	1
Thornbury Falcons	2	Avon Athletic	2
Whitchurch 'B'	0	Warmley Rangers 'A'	3

NO GAMES LAST WEEK-END – THE U15s HOME GAME POSTPONED BECAUSE OF LACK OF AVAILABLE PITCHES.

NO MATCHES NEXT WEEK-END BECAUSE OF THE U15 TOUR – NORMAL SERVICE WILL BE RESUMED ON 14th AND 15th APRIL (WEATHER PERMITTING). NEXT MATCH REPORT WILL THEREFORE BE AFTER EASTER.

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	3	1	4	1	1	10	
Steve Bacon	4	1					
Jamie Bryant	5	3	1		2	6	
Nick Ford	3	1					
Joe Garland	4	3	2		1		
Jack Gooding	9	1	2			6	
Tom Hamblin	7	1	2		1	1	
Rich Healey	7	2	2		4	5	
Lee James	3		2		1		
Sam Jones	6	1	2			1	
Phil Knight	9	2	1			5	
Craig Mehew	1						
Dan Payne	8	3	1		1	10	
Jon Pitt	7	4	1			15	1
Jay Slade	5	2				7	
Greg Tucker	7						
Zolly Vanyai	7	4	1			15	
Mark Webb	4		5		1	1	
Chay Welsh	3		5			2	

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
Jan	6	H	Brislington	3-0
	13	A	Whitchurch	4-1
Feb	3	H	Fishponds Athletic	15-1
Mar	3	A	Hengrove Boys - Cup (SF)	1-6
	10	A	Patchway	2-3
	17	H	Avon Park Rangers	4-2
Apr	7		On tour - no game	
	14	A	Hengrove Boys	
	21	A	Redcatch	
Apr	28	H	Patchway	
May	5	H	Winford	

TBA Winford (A), Fishponds United (A),
 Fishponds United (H)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	GD
Hengrove	14	13	1	0	147	9	40	+138
Fry Club Colts	11	9	0	2	84	22	27	+62
Patchway	10	8	1	1	69	12	25	+57
Whitchurch	14	8	0	6	85	42	24	+43
Winford	10	7	1	2	85	13	22	+72
Fishponds Utd	12	6	0	6	54	47	18	+7
Avon Park	11	4	0	7	23	56	11	-33
Redcatch	13	1	2	10	12	86	5	-74
Brislington	13	1	1	11	14	112	4	-98
Fishponds Ath	12	0	0	12	9	183	0	-174

U14 TEAM FACTS

	F	B	P	S	L	C
James Baker		1				
Joe Cook	12	1	2		1	2
Sam Evans			1			
Ian Field	10	4	4		1	3
Nick Frost	13					
Mattie Green	1					2
Nick Guest	7	6	3			
Tom Hamblin	16	1	1		4	4
Curtis Jack	7		4	1	1	
Sam Johnson	1			1		
Liam Kavanagh	10	5	2	1	2	
Phil Knight	10	1	2	1		
Jason McCrossan	13	1	4			
Ross Malone	12	1	1			5
Jack Morgan	2	1				
Craig Palmer	10	4	4			4
Dan Payne	11		4		3	2
Jay Slade	12	2	1		6	14
Gareth Smith	7	5	1	1	3	1
Colin Stallard	6	2	1	1		
Mark Webb	12	1	1	1	2	

Sep	10	A	Thornbury Falcons	3-1
	24	H	St Vallier (LC R1))	5-0
Oct	1	A	Frampton 'A'	4-1
	8	A	Hutton Juniors (Som Cup R1)	3-1
	15	A	Avon Athletic	0-1
	22	H	Brislington Juniors 'A'	3-2
Nov	12	A	Westfield Boys (Som Cup R2)	8-1
	26	A	Ashton Boys (LC R2)	6-0
Jan	7	A	St Annes Rangers (LC R3)	7-2
	14	A	Minehead Town (Som Cup R3)	6-0
	21	A	Warmley Rangers 'A'	3-2
Feb	4	H	Whitchurch 'B' (LC QF)	1-4
	18	A	Whitchurch Sports 'B'	0-3
	25	A	Bitton 'A'	1-1
March	4	H	Almondsbury	4-2
	11	H	Brislington (SC QF)	1-4
	18	H	Warmley Rangers 'A'	1-2
	25	H	Whitchurch 'B'	0-0
Thurs	29	H	Whitchurch 'A' (6.15 KO)	4-1
April				
Thurs	5	A	Brislington 'A' (6.15 KO)	
	8		U15 tour - no game	
	15	A	Almondsbury	
Thurs	19	H	Frampton 'A' (6.30 KO)	
	22	H	Bitton 'A'	
Thurs	26	A	Whitchurch 'A' (6.30 KO)	
	29	H	Thornbury Falcons	
May				
Thurs	3	H	Avon Athletic (6.30 KO)	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	GD
Whitchurch 'A'	15	6	4	5	27	29	22	-2
Bitton 'A'	12	6	3	3	32	22	21	+10
Fry Club 'A'	11	6	2	3	23	16	20	+7
Brislington 'A'	11	6	2	3	25	19	20	+6
Warmley 'A'	12	6	1	5	28	24	19	+4
Whitchurch 'B'	12	5	3	4	26	15	18	+11
Avon Athletic	10	4	2	4	19	23	14	-4
Thornbury	10	3	1	6	14	22	10	-8
Almondsbury	9	2	3	4	14	19	9	-5
Frampton 'A'	12	2	1	9	18	37	7	-19